Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-206
Wednesday
27 October 1993

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-206 27 October 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.
An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Robaina on UN General Assembly *[Havana TV]* 1
Robaina Attends United Nations Anniversary Ceremony *[Havana Radio]* 13
UN Representative Demands Social Development Measures *[Havana Radio]* 13
Robaina, Diplomats Tour Sites of Military Interest *[Havana TV]* 13
State Committee Corrects Self Employment List *[Havana Radio]* 14
Power Plants Under Repair, New Outage Schedule Due *[Havana Radio]* 14
Dominican President on 'Very Cordial' Relations With Cuba *[Havana Radio]* 14
Minister Evaluates Contribution to Antidrug Struggle *[Havana Radio]* 15

Haiti

Sansaricq, Dupiton to Caputo: Stay Out of Haitian Affairs *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 15
Army on Meeting: Cedras, Malval Call Caputo Biased *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 15
Government Denies 'Biased' Statement *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 16
De Ronceray Denounces Violations of Agreements *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 16
WCC Supports Non-U.S. Military Intervention *[CANA]* 17
Pro-Aristide Senators Propose Plan To Resolve Crisis *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Political Organizations Condemn Sanctions on Haiti *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Parties Reach 'Ethical' Agreement on Campaign Methods *[ACAN]* 19

El Salvador

President Cristiani Holds News Conference *[San Salvador Radio]* 19
FMLN Calls for Political Measures To Eradicate Death Squads *[San Salvador Radio]* 21
Defense Minister Says Armed Forces Budget Insufficient *[San Salvador TV]* 22

Guatemala

Draft Bill on Constitution Reforms Part 2 *[PRENSA LIBRE 23 Oct]* 22
Group Issues Communique Explaining Congress Occupation *[Guatemala City TV]* 26
Human Rights Group Peacefully Occupies Congress *[AFP]* 27

Honduras

Situation Along Nicaraguan Border Remains 'Unchanged' *[LA TRIBUNA 26 Oct]* 27

Nicaragua

Presidency Minister Announces Public Expenditure Reductions *[Managua TV]* 27
500 Former Military, Civilians Set Up Barricades in Esteli *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 26 Oct]* 28

Panama

Labor Minister Resigns To Participate in Campaign *[LA PRENSA 26 Oct]* 29

Arrested Legislator Claims U.S. Customs Set Up 'Trap' *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 25 Oct]* 29

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Santiago del Estero Legislature Begins Impeachment Process
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 26 Oct] 30
Modin Party Advocates Abstention, No-Vote at Plebiscite *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 30
Army, Air Force Officers Reportedly Punished, Under Arrest *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 31

Bolivia

Minister Antelo Says U.S. Embassy Charges 'Very Serious' *[La Paz Radio]* 31
Oblitas Rejects Charges *[La Paz Radio]* 32

Brazil

Government to Assume $456 Million of Embraer's Debt *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 21 Oct]* 33
Education Ministry Reportedly Involved in Budget Corruption
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 26 Oct] 33
Editorial Asks Government To 'Cleanse' Itself of Corruption
[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 24 Oct] 33

Chile

Interior Minister Krauss Addresses UN Assembly on Narcotics *[Santiago TV]* 34
Judge To Investigate Shootout; Carabineros Seize Weapons *[Santiago TV]* 35

Colombia

Defense Minister Calls Military Chiefs' Reshuffle 'Routine' *[Bogota TV]* 35
Representative Lara Denies Link to Cali Cartel *[Bogota TV]* 36

Ecuador

Army Searching for Colombians Near Border *[Quito Radio]* 36

Paraguay

Wasmosy Plays Down Coup Rumors, Meets Argentina's Menem *[ABC COLOR 26 Oct]* 36
Agreement To Privatize Hydroelectric Plant *[ABC COLOR 26 Oct]* 37
Wasmosy, Military Agree to Political Affiliation Suspension *[ABC COLOR 26 Oct]* 37
Air Force Commander Visits Taiwan *[ABC COLOR 23 Oct]* 38

Peru

Police Disperse San Marcos University Demonstrators *[Lima TV]* 38
Further on Students-Police Clash *[AFP]* 38
Fujimori Interviewed on Human Rights, Shining Path *[Lima TV]* 38

Uruguay

Army Commander Dismantles Agency for Antisubversive Operations *[BUSQUEDA 7 Oct]* 41
Navy To Replace Army in Conducting State Intelligence *[BUSQUEDA 21 Oct]* 41

Venezuela

* Army Commander 'Protests' Cut in Fuel Supply *[EL DIARIO DE CARACAS 6 Sep]* 41

Cuba

Robaina on UN General Assembly

FL2710030293 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0129 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Interview with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina by various Cuban journalists on the "This Very Day" program hosted by Hector Rodriguez—live]

[Text] [Hector Rodriguez] We welcome you today. I would like to begin the program by congratulating the comrades of JUVENTUD REBELDE, who are celebrating their 28th anniversary.

As we have been announcing, today we will hear a message from Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, after which a panel of reporters will ask him questions. He will try to touch on all points of the proceedings of, and the activities of the Cuban delegation in, the 48th UN General Assembly. Minister Robaina is already here and we welcome him. Good evening, Mr. Minister. Whenever you are ready.

[Robaina] Good evening, Hector, and good evening to all the viewers.

First of all, I believe I should thank the "This Very Day" program for the opportunity to speak to the Cuban people on a night and occasion such as this. This interview will be different from other programs. As many may remember, on a previous occasion, we discussed many topics related to the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, in which we just participated and which has not yet concluded. The program on that occasion was based on questions and concerns. At that time, we came and spoke of the expectations that had been created with regard to our trip and our participation. We spoke of the challenge this new work represented for Cuba's foreign policy in the international arena.

I believe that this evening we have the opportunity to combine both things. Today, we are not going to base the program on questions from journalists. Rather, we will give information on the results of our trip and the mission we just fulfilled. I believe, after we give this explanation, we may be able to cover some issues of concern to this panel of journalists and a large part of the population.

In any case, I believe there is no room for improvisation, because of the importance of the topic and the importance of the audience. I prefer to use my notes, which list our actions in chronological order. Beyond the chronological order, it allows me to remember all the details we would like to transmit to our people.

We believe it is very important and necessary to explain some of the mechanisms of the United Nations to our people. Some of the UN mechanisms, of which we have spoken from a very distant and very complex point of view....[changes thought] I insist that once we had the opportunity, with our delegation, to work within those mechanisms and bring forth the truth of our country, we realized how much more difficult than working in the United Nations is the work that our people try so hard to accomplish every day in our country.

There is no doubt in my mind that the work our scientists carry out to discover vaccines is much more difficult, above all to find the solutions that science offers to the country's problems. Undoubtedly, the labor carried out by contingent members in the furrows, at the construction sites, or in any other area is much more difficult. Not to mention the difficulty of the work of housewives, who face hard work to make life easier during such complex times.

Therefore, I believe that our foreign policy—as we have been saying for such a long time and as so many who have worked on this foreign policy have conveyed—comes from the heart of the people. It comes from what the people do. There is nothing more important for us than that the people know in detail what are the bases of that foreign policy, and how those feeling and expressions are taken to such important scenes as the United Nations; on this occasion, to the 48th session of the General Assembly.

Therefore, it is not our intention this evening to give explanations or repeat things that were covered in previous programs; nor do I intend to repeat things that this same program and our radio and newspapers have made known to the population in general throughout the progress of the Assembly. The Assembly is still going on, but I refer to the time when our delegation was there.

Above all, we would like to talk about our views of the repercussions of our trip, since our mission had the opportunity to evaluate those repercussions while we carried out our mission. I believe it is important to speak clearly in order not to create any false expectations of the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, so that our people do not expect something from this session that will be accomplished neither in the 48th nor the 49th session of the UN General Assembly.

Neither do I think...[rephrases] (? since) a bilateral program was also carried out. And that bilateral program calls for this exchange that we were able to have with many sectors of U.S. society.

Nor should false hopes arise regarding that already historic disagreement between Cuba and the United States. And I think that the best way to avoid raising false expectations is to talk about things the way they really happened.

I think the experiences on which we could reflect, on an occasion such as this, are many. But, in my opinion, we would have to begin with how important for everyone it is for us to become aware of the arguments we, ourselves, have at our disposal.

I can assure you that nothing was more important and more useful to us than to be able to set forth—at every discussion, in every (?setting)—our solid arguments. And our solid arguments are not just written down in lectures, discussions, and books that have been published. Our solid arguments lie in the very moment that is occurring here, and in the very [societal] project that is being defended here. And it seems to us that what (?is needed), in a setting like this, is for us to have, in the first place, the possibility of explaining [the solid arguments] in all their magnitude. And I would say that if there are many of us to explain them, with each of us incorporating the nuance appropriate to the particular sector from which he comes, sometimes to the very neighborhood in which one lives, and, indeed, appropriate to the country's very reality...[rephrases] it (?should be said) that the capital is one thing; the interior another. But it is very important to provide all the nuances and all the possibilities that [words indistinct].

In passing, let it be said that it is also important to convey [the solid arguments] as one of the examples we have at our disposal, and not as finished, absolute truths—because neither have we been taught to think that everything we do is exactly what needs be done at a given, precise moment.

I think it is very important for everyone to know that we are also confronting a gigantic black propaganda campaign [campana de desinformacion]. If someone were to ask me what most caught my attention in any of the settings in which we spoke and held discussions, I would have to refer first of all to the fact that the immense majority of the audience we had is extremely misinformed as to what is really going on in Cuba. And I think that is a matter we have to try to discuss and to contribute very strongly to countering.

I do not mean to speak only of disinformation. Rather, in some places, it is misleading information; in others, it is an exaggerated silence; and in still other places, it is a gigantic, orchestrated campaign, with which all of us here are already familiar. We all know how such campaigns are orchestrated around anything that is done on the island.

I had to confront, and we all had to confront, for a long time, the question as to whether we wanted, or not, to present a good image of Cuba. I insist on saying that our goal was not to present a good image of Cuba. Our goal was to present exactly the true image of the country, and that true image consists of good things, so-so things, and things we are not satisfied with. So, it is not a matter of our roaming the world talking about our good things; but, on the other hand, neither is there any reason that we must accept the world's talking only about our defects or about the problems we have not yet solved, while ignoring many of the things in this country that are under way, are possible, for which there are prospects and—much more concretely—results.

So, something we broached in this program, when we spoke earlier, was very necessary: going deeper into the idea that the nation is not at either of the two extremes. Nor is there any reason that we should fall into either of the two extremes.

We are not exactly our own dream country—a dream sometimes exaggerated—or that of our friends; but neither are we what the visceral hatred of our enemies makes us out to be, enemies who do not forgive a single thing we have ever done. So, I would say that with these elements as a preamble, we would confront a setting, a discussion, a dialogue, or an exchange; and I think we had more than enough arguments. I say this most sincerely. There was not a single question for which we did not have an answer. But not because we, exactly—nor anybody personally—had an answer; rather, because we did not fail to have, in our work, in our country, in our virtues, in our defects, in our plans, in our aspirations, and even—why not say it—in our very dissatisfactions, the possibility of explaining, with a much greater awareness of the causes of things, what [words indistinct] reality and, especially, how we are confronting it.

I headed an extremely small delegation to the United Nations, all the members of which are highly qualified people because they are permanently working there. I believe that joining that collective of people who have proven to be highly capable and efficient in their work, has enabled us to confront others, and I believe that Cuba is today [words indistinct] for all these results.

To begin evaluating the things our delegation did there, I want to say that the Cuban speech included some arguments [words indistinct] signified significant ways, and if you will, new ways of addressing certain issues. For instance, one of the arguments of the speech that had the widest impact was the fact that in it we stated strongly and clearly that the blockade is effecting two peoples. Our people are blockaded in terms of all the things we are lacking just as the American people are, in that land of freedom, because they are not allowed to travel, because U.S. businessmen are not allowed to make investments. This argument touched a sensitive chord because, in theory, the constitutional possibilities enjoyed by U.S. citizens living in a free country have time and again been emphasized in many fora.

This argument has elicited an interesting reaction from the U.S. press, from the American people themselves, and from many of those who participated in the subsequent discussions, in the first place because it provided a realistic approach and addressed the blockade issue from a different angle and standpoint.

I believe that the concept that we in the Third World have grown tired of being used as guinea pigs elicited a strong reaction. Many of the peoples represented there, through their presidents or foreign ministers, or through their respective delegations, had to strongly admit that although we always go to that forum to hear wonderful promises, many plans and aspirations, 48 hours later,

they become dead letters. We have obviously grown tired of being used as guinea pigs for everyone's theorizing about our problems.

Another tremendously strong element, which caused a great impact on many delegations, was the criticism raised by Cuba regarding the UN democratization process. We continue to insist that the underlying factors behind the UN democratization process must be brought into the open. I believe our delegation addressed this topic much more forcefully than others, and I would say that we touched on all questionable points of that democratization process and of the United Nations as an organization. Hence, many delegations approached us to thank us for what Cuba said, which reflects their thinking, but which they cannot openly express because of the pressures exerted on them.

That could of course happen and it is in fact painful to witness that type of situation at this time, when we are on the threshold of a new century. It is still, however, a form of recognition of our country for its ability to speak with its own voice, which I regard as something extremely interesting for us.

I believe the fact that nearly 40 or 50 delegates approached our seats—which is an unusually large number, not in terms of what we said or failed to say, but taking into account procedural regulations for plenary sessions—means that these delegates approached us to endorse the Cuban position. They did not approach us to convey their congratulations to anyone. They came, above all, to recognize the honor, the courage, and the dignity of a people. I do not believe it was technically possible for the cameras to convey that. It is, however, very important for our people to know what it means that already 10 or 15 minutes into the speech that followed that of the Cuban foreign minister, a long line was still in the center of the floor waiting to convey gratitude and congratulations to the Cuban delegation.

In the face of these arguments, there was always doubt and concern as to whether they were going to be addressed in those famous rebuttals, which I later learned caused concern among many. There was in fact a rebuttal, which was focused on the fact that our delegation was extremely harsh in its criticism of the United Nations. We wonder why the United States took it upon itself to respond to the harsh criticism leveled at the United Nations. You may draw your own conclusions.

Well, the rebuttal focuses on our extremely harsh criticism of the United Nations. It has been claimed that we as usual blame the blockade for all our country's problems. The representatives of that delegation contended that our problems stemmed primarily from our shortcomings and errors.

The rebuttal was delivered at such a time and in such a way that it reflected a clear attempt, above all, to deliver it at a time when the Cuban delegation would be absent from the session. Our long experience has taught us that if you leave a forum, someone will take advantage of your absence. Thus, we could not abandon that forum. It was not abandoned. Our counter-rebuttal was of course devastating, timely. Fortunately, it concluded there at that time.

That is one topic. Tackling the blockade the way we did was another thing that greatly irritated that delegation in particular—in the sense that we set forth as a fundamental element, regarding the blockade, that if we wish to talk about human rights violations, and if everyone is so very interested in how human rights are violated, mankind would not be able to just stand by at the present time and watch the rights to life of 10 million Cubans—and, in particular, 2 million children, whose only sin was to have been born in Cuba—being violated.

And I insisted on saying that whoever, in times such as these, just stands by and watches that crime is—I would say, as indeed Marti himself said—not just observing it, but committing it himself, and to do so is to merely stand aside and gaze upon a genocide. That of course upset certain people.

In any case, I wish to make it very clear that we broached this human subject that might have bothered many people. However, solving the blockade problem does not have anything to do with a humanitarian solution, nor with humanitarian aid—because we know what kinds of things are hidden behind the humanitarian aid placards being held up throughout the world, which the United Nations also sponsors, at this time. We spoke very forcefully of that human matter, of a sector of such importance as the children, but in no way does the blockade represent a humanitarian consideration for the country, and to have the world have to open up a humanitarian solution with characteristics such as these [not further identified]....

In particular, regarding the blockade, and something which I know might have worried some people, and which our population has been keeping close track of... [rephrases] I want—but without raising any false hopes—to explain that there are real possibilities for obtaining a favorable vote on the blockade.

As you will remember—and if you don't, we can very briefly sum it up—last year, that debate was won with 59 votes in favor, a new mechanism that exists—that of abstention or nonparticipation, which is for the purpose of avoiding reprisals from the powerful, and three votes against: those of the United States, Romania, and Israel.

We, with the gigantic... [rephrases] If there has been an intensification of the blockade this current year, I would say that there is, parallel to that worsening of the blockade, a gigantic movement of solidarity with our cause. There is a gigantic movement of condemnation of that blockade, which is not always made manifest in votes at the United Nations. However, life has shown us, and the contact with other delegations itself assures us, that we ought to get more votes. In any case, our discussion centers on, and our interest lies in, seeing how great that margin of votes is. We do not think, of course,

that we will have fewer votes; nor do I think that one year later, with a worsened blockade, it would be any great victory to obtain 59 votes. So it is not a matter of ensuring the 59 that are already there; which, let it be said in passing, were firm last year. We would have to see what a new vote means. (?Rather, it is) a matter of organizing the discussion of that [matter], and trying to get many new votes.

The matter of human rights continues to be a very complicated subject to the extent that it continues to be used in a discriminatory, selective, and highly politicized manner. And there we, the poor of this world, continue to travel a very difficult, very complex path. However, I think progress is being made with the idea of forcefully tackling that path head-on, of tackling it with arguments. I do not think it very likely that creation of the famous high commissioner for human rights will be achieved—although that is something that can perfectly well be said on this or another occasion—but I insist, as I said the last time, that Cuba's concern is not related to whether or not a high commissioner is created. We would say we don't have a problem with the high commissioner. Our problem continues to be with the procedures and faculties that might be created around that high commissioner—such as those that exist today; for example, around the Security Council.

No. The discussion is far more comprehensive. It goes far beyond whether a structure should be created or not. Rather, irrespective of the structure that might be created, if for instance it is empowered with the faculties, the possibilities, and the freedom of action with which the Security Council maneuvers today, then that would be highly dangerous, not just for Cuba, but for anyone who may not be viewed favorably by the empire.

This is the situation we want to discuss, irrespective of the structure that may be approved. We want to make Cuba's concern quite clear. This position is incidentally not only that of Cuba. For instance, there is very strong, broad support by Asian countries, and by many Third World countries. This is a topic on which the powerful forces are strongly united. This is also a concept they are defending at all costs.

We have described as bilateral those activities conducted outside the established program. We described as bilateral, just to give them a name, those activities we conducted outside the UN General Assembly. I would say that what we were able to do in the corridors of the UN Building while the assembly was underway has been as important, or more important, if you will, than the UN General Assembly itself. Thus, parallell to the UN Assembly process and discussions, there has been a massive exchange in which our country has systematically engaged. In my case, perhaps I should intensify these exchanges for the basic reason that someone who assumes new responsibilities should meet as many colleagues as possible to be able to establish... [corrects himself] to be more precise, I should say, to be able to further relations that had already been established a long time ago.

This made it possible for us to contact 45 foreign ministers, putting a special emphasis on meeting with those foreign ministers with whom we had not met in Bahia or in other forums we had attended earlier. Thus, we may now state with satisfaction that thus far we have already established relations with a good number of foreign ministers around the world. These relations are indeed useful.

We were able to exchange ideas with three heads of state—from Colombia, Bolivia, and Zimbabwe; and we were able to discuss our cooperation programs with every UN organization, such as the UN Development Program, Unicef, the chairmanship of the social development summit, and the UN secretary general himself. All this of course has not only strengthened ties, but have been instrumental in paving the way for creating new positions, new projects, new ideas and aspirations, which we here in Cuba [words indistinct].

Our activities at the United Nations have not been limited to the above. We also attended a meeting of Nonaligned foreign ministers. This meeting did not have the same significance and impact of our main address at the UN General Assembly plenum, but discussed there were [words indistinct], issues which were just as complicated, and even more complicated than those discussed at the UN plenary session. I would like to state that at the Nonaligned ministerial meeting we were able to elaborate on topics that had not been discussed in the UN plenary session.

We also participated in a meeting of Nonaligned regional representatives with the EEC troika. This is an exchange mechanism through which we, the Nonaligned Movement countries, seek to express the feelings of the peoples we represent. The Cuban delegation also participated in a meeting of the Group of 77, in which we had the chance to express our concerns and what we must set out to do in relation to the great North-South cooperation. Much has been said about the great North-South cooperation, but such cooperation has been nonexistent. At a certain point, we should see what we can do to talk about South-North because the prevailing phrase has always been North-South. We should be talking about South-North because the South is there not only so the North can tell it things. Rather, the South has many things to tell the North.

I would say that in all these bilateral meetings and in all these contacts, the one thing with which we are greatly satisfied, and it is important that you know about this, has been the profound respect that exists toward our people, the profound respect toward our country's leadership, particularly toward our comrade Fidel. Above all, I would say that this profound respect exists irrespective of whether our counterparts share some of the things we do. I mean that some people might believe that the

political structure should be this way or that, or they may have other ideas, but they strongly defend the respect Cuba has earned in the world, simply because it has spoken with dignity, because it has spoken independently, because it has kept its head high, and because it has never needed to ask permission to state its views on anything.

We believe this is as important as any of the material resources we might be in need of because this opens doors, opportunities without compromising our dignity. It would hurt me tremendously to see my country... [changes thought] I am confident, thanks to our history and experience, that the day will never come when we have to say, "I believe in this or that, but I cannot say it," as I have seen others do. The day Cuba has to say before other delegations, "I believe and share this or that idea, but I am not allowed to say so," perhaps that day... [changes thought] These are countries that have oil, fuel, and many resources, but in my opinion, are lacking in dignity, values—elements that are extremely important to many of us in the world today.

I know there were great expectations regarding the contacts made with businessmen. As soon as the word businessmen is uttered, everyone wonders if they have arrived here already. This is why I want to speak about this. It seems to us that other settings facilitate the arrival and quick establishment of commercial possibilities. However, no one should think that significant results can be immediately attained from an initial contact with this sector in the United States. The business sector... [stops] As a matter of fact, we told them we also wanted to see businesswomen, but we only saw businessmen. I believe that at a certain point this would be possible. Much is said about female liberation; therefore, we should also be able to talk about businessmen and businesswomen, because of the role women play in science, tourism, and many other sectors in Cuba.

The basic goal of the meeting with this sector was to break through a barrier; to break through a barrier that not only effects us, but also [effects them] because they are as interested as we are, or more so, in breaking through that barrier. We should not waste time on the motives. There is no need to find out what the reasons are for that interest—each has a different interest, most respond to economic interests. They know Cuba is an opportunity being opened. As businessmen, they do not wish to be left out of this opportunity so near their doorsteps. I believe that this is what has piqued their interest. Independent of this, many of them agree the blockade is brutal, that it is senseless to implement such a policy. I believe this gave the meeting its character.

There is great interest in knowing what is happening in Cuba. They even said that what they want is to explore. To explore is for them to discover all the possibilities, what sectors are open in Cuba to foreign capital, what are the legal regulations or the constitutional guarantees established for the investment of that capital.

Despite the blockade, they wish to begin exploring the possibilities because they trust the blockade will be lifted at some point. Are some of them more daring and more willing to begin the exploration process and break certain laws? That is their personal decision. For our part, we provided all the information on what programs are a priority for Cuba. We had to frankly tell them—because they are afraid that they are latecomers—that they are already late. It is important that this be understood. They are already late. If they wish to talk, we are willing to see what can be done so they do not arrive even later. They are already late because we cannot in the middle of an investment opening like the one in Cuba, tell a group of investors to hold it because the Americans have not yet come in.

This became clear to them and, of course, this worries many of them. I believe the message was clearly understood. I believe they were the most personally touched. It hurt their pride because they felt as blockaded as we are. They have a need and wish to invest in a country they believe is safe. We met with approximately 100 businessmen in six group meetings. They are not medium- or small-scale businessmen, but big businessmen. I believe their interest in knowing and exploring is solid.

The academic, religious, and media sectors were also present. These are sectors with which we have traditionally maintained ties and communication. This involves many issues, but it is important for the people to understand, and I fully believe they do, the magnitude of this. I would say that the tone of their questions have begun to change radically. The questions are no longer: When will Cuba change? Rather: What changes have taken place in Cuba? How far will they go? How it is possible to do all this now? Who is advising Cuba? Toward what model are you headed? Anyhow, questions stating that Cuba is not progressing, adapting, or opening are no longer issues in our meetings with these sectors.

I believe this, of course, makes us continue on the offensive explaining that, as has been repeatedly said in Cuba, the changes are not over yet. The changes are not all in a drawer and we can say here they are and they are over. The basic change is the one that took place 34 years ago. The one the Revolution advocated: adapting to the present. What the Revolution needs now is to be able to adapt to the present and the present has changed. In our opinion, five years from now we have to see what is happening in the world and Cuba and then see what changes are required. The use of these arguments by us preempts such questions by these sectors. The problem is that they have been prepared to ask us questions and us answering: No, because of this and that. The simple fact that jumping ahead with the answer as is commonly said in our neighborhoods "beating them to the answer" automatically cancels off some of the issues.

There were many questions. The dialogue was intense. The meetings, in particular, with Lucius Walker and the brothers of Pastors for Peace were as outstanding and special as ever. They have such a human trove, and very

rich trove of respect, admiration, and affection. Amongst these sectors, the academic and religious sectors, we are already working hard to formulate initiatives, plans, and projects in organizing meetings. We are exploring new noble topics such as the environment, and many other areas in which we could establish an exchange of communications. Many people are beginning to sharpen their focus on exchange between universities. Well, you are aware of scientific exchanges. We should note with great pleasure the participation of U.S. scientists in studying neuropathy cases. Much has been said about the chances for exchange, and that in the strictly academic and health areas there may be an extremely useful field for exchange.

Another new subject was raised this time—I would say that it was publicly raised because it would not be appropriate to say that Cuba has addressed it for the first time; rather, we should say that it was publicly raised for the people to know about it—and that is the famous subject of the talks with U.S. lawmakers. I had the chance to confer primarily with Democratic lawmakers. Our people are aware of the hostile position of the U.S. Congress toward our country. This, however, should not led us to conclude that everyone in the U.S. Congress endorses that same line of thinking about Cuba, and about our lack of relations.

These Democratic lawmakers, with whom we conferred and exchanged ideas, harbor a profound respect for what we are doing. They know we have disagreements. We are not saying that these are Democratic lawmakers who are supporting what we are doing on our island. We are talking about Democratic lawmakers of the U.S. Congress who have risen above the ideological disagreements that may exist between us. There is room for dialogue, for talks, and for conversation with them.

The most interesting thing is that we have become aware that these lawmakers are not alone. They themselves have told us that there are people in the U.S. society, in the U.S. Congress itself, who could be approached in such a way and with whom dialogue can be established. I would say that those lawmakers, whether male or female, harbor a position of respect toward us. Let us not take it as support, but simply as respect, cooperation, and understanding. We were able to discuss in detail what we are doing; we were able to discuss in detail what we could do. I believe that this time there was much more information at hand on some of the topics discussed with the lawmakers.

They are now supporting important initiatives to the effect that some regulations may be resolved. There is in fact a possibility which for us is extremely interesting, which is contradicting the hostile, aggressive position of some Republican lawmakers of Cuban descent, who have strongly lobbied in the Congress and have manipulated most U.S. lawmakers. It is encouraging for us to know that, irrespective of how powerful this faction might be—not so much in terms of numbers, but in terms of resources, of its modus operandi, and of its ability to lobby—it is not the only faction in the U.S. Congress. There is also another important sector, not necessarily of Cuban descent, but of Puerto Rican or of U.S. descent who maintain an altogether different position toward us compared to that of that extremely aggressive, hostile sector.

We also held important talks with the Cuban community; that is, with representatives of the Cuban community overseas, and of residents in several U.S. states. I know these meetings were widely publicized. Tonight, I want to clearly state here that those meetings with representatives of those political segments of moderate and conservative sectors of the Cuban community have been extremely positive. I also want to state that this has not been our first meeting with moderate political segments of the Cuban community. We do not want anyone to think this has been our first meeting. This has not been our first contact, but I believe that this time they were held in this way because there are different conditions.

They asked us many questions, which were presented in a extremely respectful way, at that meeting. Nearly 200 people participated in those meetings. They expressed great interest in learning about our reality, which they regard as their own reality, which they want to make part of their reality. They expressed great interest in trying to differentiate or in trying to learn what they can do there to help us achieve what we need to do here, what is it that can be done together, how could we of course contribute to lifting the blockade, which was the best possible way of achieving a family reunification, how could we expedite migration paperwork; that is many issues which are not subordinated only to what they think or to what we think, but to how we face a process which we had to discuss with the U.S. Government leadership itself.

Many sectors expressed extreme interest in promoting cultural exchanges. Youths, women, workers, virtually all sectors were represented there. I believe we should admire the way in which many of them are defending many of the causes we are defending here. These are of course people who had migrated from the country, as it has been aptly said, for economic reasons as is commonplace elsewhere in the world. Yet, a strongly political connotation has been given to the Cuban emigration and this had caused our relations with the Cuban community to remain for a long time largely influenced by the nonrelations between Cuba and the United States.

We should be aware of the differences existing among the various sectors within the Cuban community, because we could talk and maintain fluid relations with many of these sectors, irrespective of whether we are able to improve our relations with the U.S. Government. I believe we needed to make this point quite clear. We raised the possibility of holding talks with all of these segments and which sectors would be excluded. We also had to make this clear because one cannot talk just about the Cuban community. In my opinion, it is a mistake to encompass the entire Cuban community in a single

group. I believe there are tangible differences within the Cuban community, in terms of their lifestyle, their working methods, in the way they have become part of the U.S. society, and in the way in which they have maintained a different position toward their country of origin.

We categorically stated there that Cuba is willing to talk with the members of its community, because it is our community, as long as we are convinced that those segments are not at the service of terrorists, of those who seek to give our country away, of those who want to sell our country, or of those who simply seek to undo everything we have done here. If a position of respect is maintained; and if our country's independence, as well as those things that are sacred to our country, are not put in jeopardy; that is, those rather moderate sectors moving along these guidelines are something else.

If the above concepts are observed, it is perfectly possible for the Cuban community to hold talks with its country and for this country to confer with its community. It was within this framework that we proposed that another meeting be held, which could be a continuation of the recent one. I would say that more than a continuation, it should be more comprehensive, that it should have a greater composition. It was there that we proposed and discussed the possibility of holding a meeting here in Havana during the second quarter of 1994—we suggested either April, May, or June; this is a matter that still has to be decided—on Cuban emigration and reality. We hope to be able to discuss there in a clear, open, profound way those aspects relating to that emigration and the country's reality and vice versa. This has been an initiative, a proposal that was widely accepted.

I would say that the best thing about the proposal is that it will be instrumental in establishing fluid communications, without stumbling blocks, without pressures from any sector. Furthermore, another good thing about the proposal is the gigantic turmoil it has provoked within the most reactionary sector of the Cuban community, which is not in favor of any form of dialogue, of any meeting. It is simply determined to look at things from a different angle and this is why we are not willing to engage in any dialogue with this sector.

We formulated a concept there, which I characterize as being tremendously important. These emigrants are Cubans and there are among them those who maintain positions of respect and are not willing to give up their citizenship to their country of origin. Well, their country of origin is not willing to give them up either. By advocating this position of respect, we have defined an extremely strong concept. It is quite clear to everyone who would meet this concept and who are in no way willing to meet this concept, and who we see as being unfit to be considered under this concept.

This is an issue we have to look into. Well, we have done that in the United States. Yet, the Cuban community is not limited to that residing in the United States. Although in smaller groups, there are also Cuban residents in other places and our efforts to promote exchange should also focus on those places.

Regarding solidarity movements, those traditional U.S. groups with which we have maintained contacts continue to observe a profound position of respect, of assistance, of giving us aid without any strings attached to it. These movements mobilized outside the UN building, organized solidarity meetings, and kept abreast of the work of the Cuban delegation. They are the ones who are carrying out an important task at the Casa de las Americas, who have made important donations of medicines—which the delegation brought home—and who are promising donation of school supplies. This is something that continues to be particularly important. We have many friends who have long maintained an extremely encouraging position for our work.

In a meeting like this, [words indistinct] could not be absent. There was just not enough time to honor the large number of interviews requested by the media. We gave seven exclusive interviews to major tv, radio, and press organizations. We gave a total of 15 interviews. We held eight meetings with executives of U.S. tv networks and major newspapers. Executives of these newspapers wanted to know about the Cuban reality. We thus held an open, sincere dialogue with them in an atmosphere of respect for the dissenting views we might have had with some of them. The support conveyed to us by the CNN network has been particularly significant. This is not new for our country because this tv network has maintained with Cuba, particularly with my office, an extremely special relationship.

I would say that CNN made it possible for all of you here to see the images of what happened there. CNN did not hesitate in allocating the required financial resources, not only to cover the costs of tv cameras, equipment, or for editing. We should just mention the fact that CNN allowed us to use its satellite for 30 minutes or less daily to broadcast those images to the Cuban people.

I would like to state that this is not the first time we have conducted this type of work at the United Nations. We have always done it. Yet, thanks to CNN's cooperation, perhaps this time we were able to see the United Nations from inside and were able to see the Cuban delegation at work inside and, in this endeavor, we must convey our special thanks for their help to our friends at CNN. I must state that, in general, our remarks to tv, radio, and press media organizations were treated in an extremely respectful fashion. They were treated with respect, without manipulation. There were questions which can be considered rather tough. I always say that the problem does not rest with the question, but with the answer. Questions may be worded in one way or another, but the key is that one should be prepared to answer them.

Without any shadow of doubt, Cuba continues to make the news. Thus, many U.S. tv networks are greatly interested in having correspondents accredited to our

country. At a time like this, we cannot think of accrediting this or that network, because the solution would be to accredit all of them permanently. I believe there is already one team accredited and we are not against the establishment of a fluid work that would allow them to perform in the country whatever work they would like to do here. It is impossible, however, to respond at this time to such a large number of accreditation requests.

Harlem was something special just as it was more than 30 years ago. I believe it was even more special in light of the life led and the achievements made by our people in 34 years of resistance. I believe that that same special atmosphere was felt again, although unfortunately the main protagonist of a few years ago was not present this time. Perhaps he could be there again on some other occasion. Even though that protagonist was not there in person, his presence was felt there because many of those who paraded with us through the streets of Harlem had the privilege of being there when Fidel was in Harlem, when he was at the famous Teresa Hotel, which today is neither a hotel nor is named Teresa, and which today primarily houses the offices of law firms.

We could feel in Harlem what that black, Latin American population feel for Cuba to organize that activity. I am particularly referring to the 12 December Movement which was the main organizer of the demonstration. This is a very strong black movement that has fought hard for promoting the rights of blacks in the United States. A few years ago, their fight focused on passing laws. Although these laws have already been passed, racial discrimination still continues. Thus, they are now fighting discrimination harder than ever. They organized a tremendously special celebration for our country. It was very moving for us to remember what happened there in the past. It was equally moving for us to see that support for Cuba, that condemnation of the blockade, and that respect for what our people have done on U.S. streets.

On the domestic front, both at the beginning and at the end we met with all of our comrades of our mission to the United Nations with the fundamental purpose of making it clear that the missions lying ahead of us are very complicated. Although the 48th UN General Assembly will not conclude until December, the idea is that we can no longer talk about the 48th session. The idea should be to determine what we should be doing between the 48th and the 49th session to prevent the Assembly from functioning only once a year, and to make sure that during the nine-month period in which the assembly is supposedly not in session our delegation is able to pursue the issues we mentioned earlier.

There is nothing more important for our mission at this time than to continue our talks with businessmen, with academicians, with religious leaders, and with the press; that is, to continue all the work we started there. We are not concerned in the least about undertaking this task because we have a highly capable team, which can accomplish without any difficulty this or any other mission, no matter how complex or difficult it might be.

I cannot conclude my statement—to let the journalists start asking questions—without saying that the visit has far exceeded every expectation we may have had about it. We engaged in a total of 117 activities in 18 days. This shows how intensive our schedule was. Please do not credit any individual with these 117 activities because if one was to deliver speeches or give interviews, dozens of people had to work for each of these activities. Thus, many people were involved in these activities, even some who were staying here in our country because all of these issues require analyses, background, or proposals. Thus, there were many people, many hours of work behind these 117 activities held in 18 days.

Although we contacted every major sector of the U.S. society, we must further all of these contacts. We did not overlook sectors such as intellectuals, artists, academicians, and businessmen. A remarkable respect has been observed for our country, for the effort our people are making, and for the example given by our people to the world as to how to exist at this time. We are existing and this of course is respected there, by the U.S. society.

It is quite significant for us to note here what we were taught as children; that is, that we must differentiate what the U.S. citizens, what the American people think about Cuba and the Cuban people from the hostile attitudes of the U.S. administrations. I considered it to be very special for me to be able to confirm firsthand such difference. As a general rule, one can see that when U.S. citizens visit Cuba, but it was extremely important to see that difference through the opinions of drivers, guards, and the entire staff of the United Nations. It is good to know that we have many friends in the United States. Let us not speak of millions and millions, but I believe we have many loyal friends in the United States and that we have many friends in the U.S. Cuban community. It is good to know that that country is not full of enemies of our country. This is extremely important.

I believe that the most important thing now is to think about following up on these talks, about continuing the work conducted during the 48th UN General Assembly, and above all, to see how we can reach the 49th UN General Assembly with some of these major issues at a more advanced stage.

I cannot conclude my opening statement here, at least from a personal standpoint, without commenting on one of the last questions I was asked here earlier, during another "This Very Day" program, right before I departed for the United Nations. It was a question from a listener whose first name is Domitila. She asked then what the United Nations was good for, whether the United Nations was good for anything. At that time, I told Domitila that she and I shared the same concern and that all I could tell her was that I could identify with her

concern. We discussed what we thought the United Nations should be and what it has failed to be.

I believe the main thing is that the United Nations is there, with its virtues and shortcomings, perhaps with more shortcomings than virtues at this time. Yet, most countries, whether rich or poor, whether large or small, are members of this United Nations. We believe that the principles contained in the UN Charter, which made it possible for the organization to come into being, are still valid. In our opinion, what unfortunately have not been valid or efficient are the mechanisms in which the United Nations has become involved, as well as certain political pressures, certain economic influences, and certain bureaucratic stumbling blocks.

I believe that the existence of all these problems should not cause us to lose sight of the fact that, honestly speaking, what we must achieve is to get the United Nations to play this role. So long as these problems are not solved, so long as the United Nations does not play the role we believe it should play, I will continue to share the same expressed by Domitila.

I am now ready to answer questions.

[Rodriguez] Thank you Robaina. Well, we are now going to move on to the second part of the appearance here of the Cuban foreign minister. There is a group of journalists. You may have seen on your screen that Elizabeth Noriega is here with me. There are also journalists who are not present in this building, such as Barbara Betancourt of Radio Havana Cuba; Marina Menendez of JUVENTUD REBELDE; Miguel Lozano of PRENSA LATINA; and Roberto Alvarez Quinonez of GRANMA. These journalists will take part in this panel. Now, we are going to let Elizabeth ask the first question.

[Noriega] After your opening statement, it is hard for us to find questions to ask you. But we are going to try to touch on aspects that were not discussed during your last appearance here before your trip to the United Nations. We would like to touch on specifics of the meeting you held with sectors of the Cuban community residing in the United States. Press reports have described this meeting as a change in our policy. My question is: Is it really a change of policy?

[Robaina] I do not believe there is a need to look at it as a change in policy exactly. In my opinion, policies must adjust to the times. I believe we are going through a new time. I said earlier that this has not been the first time our government has contacted the Cuban community abroad because we have traditionally maintained contacts with those segments that are respectful toward what we are doing in the country. What is new is that there are now conditions in that country that make it possible for many more groups to express themselves in better ways than they did at earlier stages. To the extent that there are now more groups, more diverse sectors expressing their views, the spectrum of those with whom we can exchange views has broadened.

In my opinion, there is no need to consider this a change, in that we decided that the time had come to hold talks with the Cuban community. That is not the case. For a long time and to the extent that our relations with that community had not been so politicized by members of that community themselves and, why shouldn't we say it, by ourselves too... [changes thought] I believe, however, that we are going through different times, but that there has been no specific change in our policy. I would rather consider it an adjustment of our policy to the times.

[Menendez] Good evening, Robaina, and "This Very Day" colleagues. Robaina, you made reference to the negative reaction of certain right-wing sectors of the Cuban community in Miami in reaction to the meeting with representatives of the Cuban community. How much might this reaction impair the fluidity of the dialogue that might occur between this community and Cuba?

[Robaina] I believe that for us, this does not constitute a problem, nor does it hinder the goals of this meeting and what we are doing with these fluid relations and mechanisms. First of all, this is not the first time we have had to confront the issue of reactions. We are already accustomed to that kind of reaction from the right wing, in connection with everything being done in Cuba. In my opinion, those reactions almost show us the way. It tells us how good or bad we are doing with our proposals. Our meeting.... [changes thought] I would go beyond calling it a dialogue because I see dialogue as limiting us to only one form of meeting and manner of discussing pending issues. In my opinion we are advocating fluid, normal relations. The characteristics of that community are not going to change. Cuba is going to continue working in this fashion. I believe that what exists between segments of that community and us will not affected by any reaction, no matter how harsh.

[Menendez] I would like to ask another question on the same issue.

[Rodriguez] Go ahead.

[Menendez] You spoke of those who will not be present in the forthcoming meeting in Havana. Has an agenda been organized already listing those who will be present?

[Robaina] We are working right now not only on the agenda but also on the composition. The agenda is reflected in the title of the meeting. It speaks of the emigration and the reality. Therefore a certain group of phenomena that are of interest to the emigrants and which the people should be told about will be included. The reality of Cuba, of course, also needs to be present. We are interested in informing the emigrants about it. We must now let smaller groups work on the composition of the meeting.

The first meeting might not include everything it ought to. The meeting will have a continuity that frees us from trying to organize a fully finished meeting and an exact list of participants. I do insist that what does not have a

place in this meeting is that which does not meet the standard of respect and those who do not advocate this dialogue, meeting, or fluid relation.

I believe that now we have to work on the agenda and the composition. However, we have comrades with expertise on this and they will now make it a reality.

[Betancourt] I also wish to ask a question about the dialogue with the Cuban community in the United States: What does that community expect from us—when I say us, of course, I mean the Cuban Government—and also, what can we expect from that community?

[Robaina] This is a very interesting issue. This prompted many questions and discussions during the meeting. I believe we can expect nothing more that what we mutually seek: the fluid relations we have referred to. I believe that that community seeks a relationship with its fatherland and I believe this country should also seek a relationship with its community. To the degree that we maintain that level of communication and exchange, we will become more aware of our mutual realities. Once we know our mutual realities, we will find out where our true interests lie. They insist on knowing what they can do for Cuba from their position. We insist on telling them what we are doing from our position for that Cuba they refuse to relinquish in terms of ties of friendship, family, love, respect, and other issues. I believe that on the basis of respect, there is nothing more important than establishing that relationship, in order to open many channels and possibilities for exchange.

[Alvarez] I wanted to ask several things, but you have explained them in detail; particularly, the meeting with the U.S. businessmen and the concept of the blockade against Cuba and the U.S. people. However, since I am already on this issue I would like to know if this 100 or so businessmen represented the most powerful groups in the United States, medium or small enterprises, or Cuban businessmen? Also: How was this unusual meeting reflected by the media? And: Are there plans for a [words indistinct]?

[Robaina] This type of meeting, as you stated, provoked much talk. The media and the businessmen were interested in knowing, above all, if the contacts would continue.

I mentioned that the goal of these first meetings was to provide extensive information because they are interested in exploring the possibilities. The businessmen did not represent medium or small enterprises; they represented large enterprises and very important corporations. It is important to stress that they did not hide to speak with us. It is their right to inquire about their interests. Following that explanation, what they will do is yet to be seen. Many of them are interested in coming to Cuba and being briefed right here in Cuba about tourism investments, nickel and fuel possibilities, and many other things. Many of them are interested in the biomedical, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology sectors.

This is an extremely unique phenomenon. It generated an elevated level of interest and many questions. These meetings in particular were with large corporations and sectors. The meetings did not particularly include Cuban-American businessmen. We know of Cuban-American businessmen who are interested, but in this particular case, the meetings were held with American businessmen.

[Lozano] Good evening. I would like to revive the issue of the dialogue with the Cuban community abroad. First, I would like to ask about certain specific aspects: What are the similarities and differences, as projected, between the meeting held in 1978 and representatives of the Cuban community abroad? I would also like to ask if the people who will participate in the dialogue will do so as individuals or representing their respective organizations? On the other hand, I would like to know how you believe this process of normalization of ties between the Cuban Government and the emigrants will develop on the basis of what you mentioned, separate from the comings and goings of the Cuba-United States dispute?

[Robaina] That is what we commonly call a three-in-one. We do not believe there is a need to compare this meeting with the dialogue of 1978. In my opinion, the 1978 dialogue fulfilled its role; it served its goals at the time. I believe that it is very difficult to compare this kind of event, now that the characteristics are so different after so many years. In my opinion, the conditions have changed a lot. In particular, their being conducted in different times is enough to give them a substantial difference. I believe a basic similarity lies in establishing a dialogue. In this particular case, the basic goal is not making this the dialogue of 1994. This is not our goal for meeting with the Cuban emigration. The goal of the "Emigration and the Cuban Reality" meeting in the second quarter of 1994 is going to be a moment of reflection and analysis to open a path to advance far beyond annual meetings and a 1994, 1995, or 1996 dialogue.

There is talk today of representatives of political sectors. In my opinion, there is a combination of many things. I believe many will come, representing the groups and movements they belong to, and many will also come as individuals, due to the work they do and the sector they belong to, which is independent of a group or organization, and yet maintains that respect, communication, a possibility [words indistinct].

Now, how to put this above the comings and goings of the relations between Cuba and the United States. I believe that conditions have changed. Life has taught us that the Cuban community has been able to express itself in spite of those relations. Therefore, Cuba has to be above political comings and goings in establishing a relationship with its community abroad. I believe that the fact of establishing this meeting and maintaining a communication in itself should allow us to establish a difference. Those who we are planning to establish a contact with are not those who have been closely linked

to that coming and going. The ones excluded from this meeting is that other portion of the Cuban community, the reactionary sector that cannot be separated from the swaying of U.S. policy toward Cuba since they swing from the same cord and dance to the same tune because they are closely linked to the policies of U.S. administrations over the years. I believe that those who have separated from this are the other sectors of the Cuban community, and I believe that this separation opens a channel and a possibility for a different type of communication.

[Noriega] What was the reaction to the Cuban initiative to invite 12 Nobel Prize recipients to visit Cuba and see the Cuban reality? And in connection with this: You mentioned that historically, the Cuban issue has suffered from disinformation, mostly due to manipulation, but also due to lack of information. Therefore, what is the possible impact of Cuba's foreign policy strategy of focusing on our domestic situation, in changing the lack of information on Cuba, and how has that policy changed Cuba's foreign service?

[Robaina] Regarding the first question: I would say that it is more than anything else, simply an idea we have been playing with. You could say Nobel Prize recipients as well as important personalities of global renown in any field. More than the initiative itself, whenever it is done or whatever its final form, the issue is our rejection of impositions such as the famous human rights rapporteur. I insist on saying that Cuba is not afraid of any rapporteur. If it is a matter of rapporteurs, hundreds of thousands of rapporteurs are visiting Cuba in the form of every tourist, and anyone who comes and is free to talk with our people. Thus, it is not a matter of the rapporteur himself. We have nothing against this individual, but the basis on which it was decided.

Therefore, in order to show the world that Cuba has no second thoughts in... [changes thought] We already did it once. We had a visit by an important group of personalities; they had access to everything on the island. We are very clear, proud, and convinced of what we are doing to repeat this visit 15 or 20-fold. As a way of showing that we are not afraid of any inspector, we spoke of an initiative that has been discussed in Cuba: The selection of 12, eight, 15, 20, or five Nobel Prize recipients or any other individuals. These are simply different ideas we have been discussing to resolve this issue. We have even said that the selection does not have to be made by us. Any selection is fine as long as it is not imposed, particularly under the conditions by which the rapporteur had been imposed. That is the issue. It might take this or that shape, but this is the way to do it.

Regarding the other issue: I believe that life has demonstrated the validity of the concept of engaging in an full-fledged offensive to explain our reality and to find a space if it is denied to us. Cuba today cannot miss a single opportunity in any newspaper, or on any television or radio broadcast. The country cannot afford that luxury because the opportunities taken away from us are used at times by manipulation campaigns. We actually have to run the risk of manipulation. Yet, in spite of this manipulation, we are making progress. I can sincerely say this because I believe that this policy of offensive has allowed us to explain our reality. It is no longer an issue of its being believable or not, but that the argument of whomever is condemning us is not allowed to stand alone in any discussion, but on the contrary, the voice of Cuba must be there, too.

I believe that this characterizes the foreign service. We cannot say that we have solved everything overnight. We believe that there are opportunities we have yet to use. This is a constant concern of our work: How to better use all the foreign service personal toward this goal. I must add that the phrase, all foreign service personnel, does not mean the Foreign Ministry personnel alone. Today, anyone of our doctors in any country, anyone of our artists, the best of ambassadors, any of our athletes, any of our journalists, conduct foreign policy. In other words, all of us become foreign service workers when we are abroad. Whenever you are abroad, being Cuban is enough for people forget the sector you represent. The first thing they ask is how Cuba is doing, what changes are taking place, and what is being done. We could claim that Cuba is the country with the most people doing foreign service. The ministry is very pleased by this because we have not only the few that work in the ministry, but the great number of capable people outside the ministry.

[Betancourt] I would like to ask about an issue also related to the blockade and the Cuba-United States conflict: The limitations imposed on Cubans traveling to the United Nations to move on U.S. territory. There is a 25-mile limit and I understand that certain U.S. congressmen have made efforts for you to travel to Washington, but it was beyond the 25-mile limit, so not possible. I would like details about this, and if these efforts by these congressmen continue, if they are still making efforts to eliminate this ban.

[Robaina] Yes. This is an incredible issue. In the bilateral meetings that we were conducting there, we explained to many of the people we were speaking to that on occasion certain interviews could not be conducted where they were wanted because it was outside the 25-mile limit. Many people from Atlanta, Washington, Florida, and other places who wanted to speak with us had to travel to the United Nations. A good number... [changes thought] Referring to the great disinformation campaign and silence, the immense majority of the foreign ministers, for example, found out about this regulation when I told them that this is how we have to meet. It is true that there have been efforts to end this and fortunately resolve it.

We did not put pressure on this, and know of these Democrat congressmen with whom we spoke who are leading a campaign in Congress to send a letter to the U.S. President, which the Congress will discuss and which has many, many signatures attached, asking that

the Cuban personnel traveling to New York—this does not apply to the Cuban personnel in Washington—be allowed to travel to other places and not be limited by the 25-mile limit. This discussion gained momentum as we departed toward the United States. We stated that there was no need to engage in this discussion during our visit. This is not solved overnight. We will keep informed on the progress made on this. It is truly absurd and contrary to the concept of liberty of movement so defended in that country.

[Rodriguez] Is it 25 miles from the UN building?

[Robaina] A 25-mile radius from the UN building—actually, the center is not the UN building, but another spot in New York City.

[Noriega] At least Harlem is within the limit.

[Robaina] Yes, Harlem falls within the 25-mile limit.

[Menendez] Thank you. My question is perhaps more general and outside the trip to the United Nations. Independent of the issue of the fight against the blockade, what presently are the main tasks of our foreign policy, our basic goals?

[Robaina] I believe that the basic principles and tasks that characterize our foreign policy today is first of all aimed at ratifying something that has to do with the entire character of the foreign policy the Revolution has always maintained: a policy of principles of respect for the domestic affairs of other nations, so that our rights, sovereignty, and domestic affairs are respected with noninterference. There is also a group of prioritized tasks in connection, for example, with the blockade: the offensive being conducted to explain the Cuban reality everywhere; the efforts to disarticulate the highly manipulated human rights campaigns against Cuba; the efforts to strongly reactivate the democratization of the United Nations; the reactivation and rescue of the Nonaligned Movement role which in our opinion has weakened in the last few years; the preservation of the unique character of our foreign policy, which reflects the entire life of the country in that truth that we are taking to the international arena. This is what makes ours the policy of principles that the Revolution has always maintained, a policy of honesty and truth, and of all the issues related to the efforts this country has made in the last 34 years.

[Noriega] Excuse me, Robaina. You also met with Caricom representatives. What resulted from this?

[Robaina] Yes, Caricom and the Caribbean have always been and are right now very special to us. You and our people know, first of all, of the honorable manner in which those Caribbean islands reacted when they were pressured to not trade with Cuba and how they defended their views regarding trade with Cuba. I had the privilege of being invited to a meeting of Caribbean foreign ministers, similar to a G-77 or a Nonaligned Movement meeting. We participated and expressed our gratitude for their attitude. We spoke of the possibility of trading with a Caribbean we are proud to be part of, and even how we want to give continuity to that effort in another visit to those Caribbean islands, to cement those economic ties and possibilities for communication and trade.

[Lozano] Minister, regarding your meetings with American scholars and politicians, as well as with representatives of other sectors during your trip to the United Nations, I would like to know which sectors expressed a deeper understanding or empathy toward the Cuban position, and if possible, their specific names. For example: Who—and to what degree—pleased you the most in terms of their receptiveness to the Cuban position?

[Robaina] Just as the sectors are extremely varied and have very distinctive characteristics, from the start this makes it almost impossible to compare their reactions. I would say that we cannot compare the receptiveness of solidarity groups, such as the Pastors for Peace and Lucius Walker, with that of the first meetings with U.S. businessmen, not even to the meeting with the Cuban community—those who wish to defend the same flag we defend.

I believe there is a common denominator: a great deal of understanding, a lot of respect, a great will to know, a common desire to see the lifting of the blockade, to see the end of this absurd policy that blocks our development and makes solving this situation very difficult. This is perhaps the common denominator. I believe that in such a broad meeting there are sectors with an extremely special attitude. If I must speak of a meeting with a sector that brings back highly emotional moments, I would have to refer to Lucius Walker and the Pastors for Peace brothers; and those who have been involved with Casa de las Americas for a very long time—an important group of members of the Cuban-American community who have been working there for many years, and have shown a very coherent position toward us despite having left Cuba over 30 years ago. We also need to mention many common Americans who are above any of the policies implemented in the past. We must refer to the Antonio Maceo Brigade and many sectors that have been highly identified with us for the longest time. Thus, I believe that we cannot pick one above the others. There is a common something that characterizes them and I think there are particulars involving the history of those relationships, how it changes with time, and the relations just begun with others.

[Alvarez] Minister, you mentioned a while back that you held important meetings with the top leaders of major U.S. broadcasting corporations, television networks, newspapers, and some other important U.S. media agencies. I would like to know what the essential issues discussed in those meetings were.

[Robaina] We mostly discussed their great interest in reporting about on process of transformations currently taking place in Cuba. They are all highly interested in the latest economic changes, the ones being implemented,

the ones regarding the laws you know have been discussed, modifications implemented, and also their interest in being able to prepare reports reflecting that reality. There were many talks regarding this, many inquiries on how far the economic changes have gone. There were many questions on foreign capital investment, what the opening entails, the regulations, and constitutional and judicial guarantees.

They also want to know how far are we willing to go. They referred to coming to Cuba to cover this on a permanent basis. I insisted that the problem is not the permanent basis of their coverage. There is a full set of possibilities to reflect the Cuban reality in exchanges we might hold. I believe that contrary to other meetings I have held with executives of these same television and radio networks and newspaper agencies, the discussions did not focus on old questions, but on their need to better reflect what is happening in Cuba. We see this as a very good sign.

[Betancourt] I wish to speak about something you mentioned regarding your talks with the Cuban community: the issue of immigration. About a week ago there were many reports, even statements by U.S. State Department spokesmen, about the reactivation of the emigration accords signed by Washington and Havana in 1984. I would like you to confirm this. What is happening in this regard?

[Robaina] Presently, there are certain points that are not news. Yet, speculation is generated anyhow. Emigration talks have been restarted. They are not stalled right now. There is a process of exchange on many of the common issues that concern us both, but at no time in any of those talks have reporters been present, nor have we wished to make the manner in which it is done public knowledge. I believe the emigration talks are progressing well. I believe we have to continue to make progress because there are many points on which our views differ.

However, in my opinion, the points of disagreement are not important. What is important right now is that the talks have not been interrupted, and the progress being made in each meeting. I believe that both sides are pleased with the restart of the talks. In relation to things that might be taken out of context, you know how that press works in terms of verifying the truth, how at times the subject of talk to begin a process of discussion immediately becomes front page headlines, is given a sensationalist turn, and becomes the focus of news when it is not exactly so.

[Rodriguez] I believe we have reached the end. I deeply thank comrades Elizabeth Noriega of the NTV newscast, Barbara Betancourt of Radio Havana Cuba, Marina Menendez of JUVENTUD REBELDE that today observes its 28 anniversary, Miguel Lozano of PRENSA LATINA, and Roberto Alvarez Quinonez of GRANMA for having been here with us.

Of course, I specially thank Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina on behalf of all the workers of "This Very Day" program for having given our people this opportunity to learn about the activities of the Cuban delegation during the 48th session of the UN General Assembly. Thank you very much, minister. May this not be the last time. We ought to have you back soon.

[Robaina] Thank you very much.

Robaina Attends United Nations Anniversary Ceremony

FL2610161693 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] In Havana, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina attended a celebration marking the 48th anniversary of the United Nations, sponsored by the Cuban United Nations Association [ACNU]. Ramon Sanchez Parodi and Nicolas Rodriguez, vice ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, as well as (Joashin Von Drauner), representative of the UN Development Program in Cuba, accompanied Robaina during the ceremony. (Teresita Vero), director general of ACNU thanked Foreign Minister Robaina and the rest of the participants in the ceremony for their attendance and underscored the importance of the 48th anniversary of the United Nations. Members of the accredited diplomatic corps in Havana, as well as officials from the different UN agencies in Cuba, were present at the ceremony.

UN Representative Demands Social Development Measures

PA2610150793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Rene Mujica, Cuba's representative to the Third Commission of the UN General Assembly, demanded the adoption of effective measures to promote social development through positive national and international activities based on human justice and solidarity, which could promote cooperation between countries.

The Cuban diplomat said such actions must be backed by the specialized institutions and agencies of that world organization.

Robaina, Diplomats Tour Sites of Military Interest

FL2710033493 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and the diplomatic corps accredited in Cuba toured sites of military interest in the city of Havana. The visitors toured the General Maximo Gomez military academy. In the afternoon, the accredited diplomats visited a number of people's tunnels in the city of Havana. Brigadier General Juan Pujol, director of the military academy, received the visitors and gave them a brief overview of the work of the military academy. Academy

teachers then briefly explained, in different specialized classes, the content of the instruction the academy's students receive.

The General Maximo Gomez military academy opened 30 years ago and is qualified to provide the officers of the land troops of the Navy and the Daafar [Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air with Force] with a superior level of training. [passage omitted]

The Ministry of Foreign Relations coordinates visits of this kind to sites of military interest with a view to having the diplomats and military attaches accredited in Cuba informed as to the military preparedness of our troops and of the population in general, for as the Cuban foreign minister rightfully said: There is no better way to avoid war than to prepare oneself to tackle it, should such a thing be necessary.

State Committee Corrects Self Employment List

FL2610175193 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1504 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] On Friday, 22 October, GRANMA newspaper printed a list of new occupations in which people could register for self employment. There was an error in the article involving plaster figure sales which should have read: producer-salesman; considering that we should not create favorable conditions for middlemen.

The State Committee for Labor and Social Security reiterates that Article No 8 referring to the above mentioned occupations allows the direct sale to the population of products or services that these workers may produce. Nevertheless, the application of these measures to prevent the excessive number of salesmen, especially in certain areas, are to avoid the emergence of middlemen or parasites that take advantage and get rich off everyone else's effort.

Power Plants Under Repair; New Outage Schedule Due

FL2610222793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] As we announced at the beginning of the newscast, large power plants in the country are currently receiving necessary repairs. With regard to this subject, reporter Demetrio Villaurrutia interviews Ricardo Gonzalez, director of electric services at the National Electric Union.

[Begin recording] [Villaurrutia] Why have the maintenance efforts continued, as expressed in the communique from the National Electric Union?

[Gonzalez] Since we have been able to obtain the needed resources to take on these repairs, we have organized those resources so we have the electricity needed to ensure operations for the sugar harvest and at the same time reduce outages in the residential sector toward the end of the year or in the middle of December when the sugar harvest becomes intense.

In other words, as we explained in the informative note, beginning now and through 15 December, it is necessary to make additional adjustments to the outages that are already affecting some of the territories, to make sure that the power plants receive the maintenance they require, so we can count on them at the end of the year for the sugar harvest and the new year.

[Villaurrutia] Which power plants are being maintained?

[Gonzalez] Well, as I explained, today we are working on an important unit at the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes in Cienfuegos Province. The maintenance is on schedule, and workers of the power plant maintenance enterprise and the power plants themselves are making great efforts to finish, and even see if they can finish the work ahead of schedule.

At the same time, we are repairing an important unit of the Rente power plant, as well as the Mariel power plant in the eastern part of the country, where they are working hard to repair and provide the needed maintenance in hopes of recovering the country's generating capacity. In other words, the maintenance that is being done at the moment is necessary for certain units. This will allow them to work efficiently and safely.

[Villaurrutia] Many people have asked, with this new outage schedule, and considering that some work centers will not be working on weekends, if outages in each one of the provinces could be reduced? What can you tell us about this?

[Gonzalez] As I explained, until 15 December, it will be practically impossible to avoid outages on weekends. We generally try to minimize outages on weekends; in other words, have as few as possible, taking advantage of the fact that the demand on those days is reduced, even though the residential demand increases on Saturday and Sunday. Nevertheless, we will try by all means to reduce outages. At the moment, however, it will be practically impossible and we will have to establish a schedule of outages which will later be announced in each one of the provinces, which will include weekends. We will try to reduce scheduled outages whenever possible. [end recording]

Dominican President on 'Very Cordial' Relations With Cuba

FL2610195393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] In an interview by the Mexican newspaper EL SOL, Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer stated that relations with Cuba have always been very cordial since he took office in 1966. Balaguer said: We have maintained relations with Cuba in the most cordial way possible. He went on to say: Of course, these relations have been limited because we have been mindful of the

decisions by international organizations, especially the Organization of American States.

President Balaguer added that these relations have developed mainly in the sports and cultural fields, where borders have been kept open to the Cuban people. Those who request visas are allowed to develop activities in the country as freely as any other foreign citizen. Many Dominicans go to Cuba for health care; they visit Cuban hospitals; they maintain very good relations with Cuban families, and there is a permanent exchange between the two peoples.

President Balaguer added: We do not have diplomatic relations with Cuba, but I think the sports, cultural, economic, and other types of relations and exchanges are worth more than purely diplomatic relations. He added: We have maintained those relations and we will always maintain them with Cuba.

Balaguer stated: It would be impossible to keep separated and at a distance from each other two countries so united by their history and with such strong historic ties; not only because of Jose Marti's acts during the time of his struggle for Cuba's liberation, or the impact he made during his visits to our country, or the great friendships he established in our country, but also for the presence in Cuba and the Dominican Republic of eminent citizens from the two countries who made great contributions in education, such as (Pedro Enrique Zurena) and (Don Francisco Enriquez y Carvajal) in Cuba, and many outstanding Cuban people in the Dominican Republic.

These declarations were made by Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer in an exclusive interview with EL SOL newspaper in Mexico by its director and president, (Mario Vazquez Rana).

Minister Evaluates Contribution to Antidrug Struggle

FL2610233493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] As part of the 48th UN General Assembly, talks on drug-related matters began today. The Cuban delegation is headed by Justice Minister Carlos Amat who before leaving for New York, provided an assessment to journalist Josefa Bussi.

[Begin Amat recording] In our statement, one of the points we must develop is precisely the state of this problem in the country and how the country is dealing with it. This is something all speakers are supposed to do: do an analysis and an assessment of how things are going in their country. We are going to talk about... [changes thought] you know that Cuba is indirectly an international drug-trafficking objective, because we lie along the path of the drug traffickers, from South America toward North America, and drugs often wash up on our shores. Our air space, our air corridor is also being used for this kind of thing. In this we also make a contribution, by trying to chase drug traffickers and also by gathering up all these drugs—when they can be seized—that come in by boat, or fall into the sea. In this, too, Cuba participates. I would say that Cuba has been doing much more work in this area since there is now a national drug commission here. I think we have been taking steps forward that we need to progressively consolidate. This work is done progressively. But ultimately, I think that Cuba too can present a positive worksheet at this meeting. [end recording]

During his stay in New York, Amat will meet with his counterparts from several countries and with (Giorgio Giacomelli), the representative for the UN illegal drug use program.

Haiti

Sansaricq, Dupiton to Caputo: Stay Out of Haitian Affairs

FL2610213593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Mediator [Dante] Caputo's initiative has been rejected by Senators Bernard Sansaricq and Thomas Eddy Dupiton, who participated in crafting the plan proposed by the parliamentary Crisis Committee. The senators denounce foreign interference:

[Begin recording] [Sansaricq, in Creole] We are asking Dante Caputo: Please, stay away. Do not come among Haitians in Haitian matters. We continue to support the Crisis Committee's initiative and we will be there for the vote. However, we consider every action of Dante Caputo—a person who has tried to degrade Haitian institutions—as interference in the country's affairs. To every Haitian who supports him, we say that we do not agree and that they are making it easy for foreign rulers to come in and interfere in the country's affairs. [Dupiton] I say to all those who want to be accomplices of Caputo: We are Haitians. We continue to support the initiative of the Crisis Committee, but Caputo and his followers must stay outside the matter. We are going to be there to carry out what we have promised in the project submitted to all concerned with extricating the country from crisis.

We respect Jimmy Carter. He could come with the president. However, what is going to take place in the chamber must be strictly parliamentary. We do not need either community support or community security. [end recording]

Army on Meeting: Cedras, Malval Call Caputo Biased

FL2710010093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] It should be noted that Prime Minister Robert Malval and General Cedras are due to meet again on 27 October to discuss the crisis. During this third meeting in less than one week, the safety of parliamentarians and

the question of Gen. Cedras' resignation will be on the agenda. During its daily news conference, the Army pointed out that no agreement was reached during the second series of conversations between Prime Minister Malval and Gen. Cedras. The Army spokesman also pointed out that no agenda was worked out by the parties for the continuation of the discussions. Furthermore, Colonel Pierre Antoine announced that at the 25 October meeting, the participants admitted the biased character of mediator Dante Caputo.

[Begin recording] [Antoine] The General Staff advises that on 25 October, it met with Prime Minister Robert Malval, who was accompanied by members of the government and representatives of parliament. During this meeting, regarded as informal by both parties, the General Staff attended a discussion between the government and the parliament on the procedure for the vote of the amnesty law. No conclusions resulted from these discussions, according to observations by the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH]. The question of safety at the parliament was also raised. On that score, the FADH reaffirmed their willingness to ensure safety throughout the country as they always do. Contacts were previously made with the president of the Chamber of Deputies about this question.

The situation of special envoy Dante Caputo formed the subject of discussions as well. The parties acknowledged the biased character of Dante Caputo's interventions and his steps toward resolving the crisis. There was no agreement or agenda, but a program was established for the day's session.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you think about [Caputo's] invitation to foreign personalities?

[Antoine] As I said a moment ago, we are amazed that such an invitation comes from Dante Caputo. There is a Chamber of Deputies president and a Senate president.

[Journalist] Will the Army protect the parliament?

[Antoine] The Army has always protected the country.

[Journalist] Are there military men, members of the general staff, ready to replace Gen. Cedras?

[Antoine] The military is always ready. The structure of the Army is chain of command. [end recording]

That was Col. Pierre Antoine, spokesman for the military institution.

Government Denies 'Biased' Statement

FL2710012493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] A government spokesman denied that the government, in conversations with General Cedras at the private residence of Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval, said that Dante Caputo is biased in his stands.

De Ronceray Denounces Violations of Agreements

FL2610213693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Excerpts] For the MDN [Mobilization for National Development] of Hubert De Ronceray, the Governors Island agreement is shaky, sinking into deadlock, and running out. In a news conference [date not given], Hubert De Ronceray's party has acknowledged the failure of this agreement. De Ronceray lists the points in the Governors Island agreement that have been violated and asks for a new reading on the Haitian crisis. Edner Jean reports:

[Begin recording] [Jean] In fact, MDN is confirming its opposition to the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. As 30 October approaches, Hubert De Ronceray recalls that he warned Haitian leaders against any kind of internationalization of the crisis through pseudonegotiations which, he says, carried the risk of compromising our dignity and our sovereignty. The MDN president has recognized, reluctantly, that the UN and OAS decisionmakers compelled the main protagonists in the crisis to sign the Governors Island agreement and to ratify the Robert Malval government. Such decisions show that Haiti is under supervision, thinks Hubert De Ronceray.

MDN consoled itself by stating that the Governors Island agreement and the New York pact have no legal standing and are inoperative under the Haitian social system. De Ronceray takes note of the invalidity of those two documents.

[Deronceray] Point 2 of the agreement, which provides for dialogue among the political parties represented in the parliament, has been violated by international envoy Dante Caputo who selected and gathered, in New York, Jean-Bertrand Aristide's friends and supporters, making a political truce leading to a stable and peaceful transition impossible.

Point 2 of the New York pact was violated by Robert Malval, the prime minister who refused to form a government of national concord. Point 5 of the agreement was violated by the international community which, instead of technical and financial aid to develop and modernize the Army and the police, sent destroyers into Haitian territorial waters to threaten Haitian citizens' security of life and property.

[Jean] MDN says that it is available for any concerted action by the legislative and judicial powers and the Haitian Armed Forces, in support of the definitive closing of negotiations on the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide and in support of the application of Article 149 of the Constitution. In that respect, Hubert De Ronceray solicited the arbitration of the Holy See in establishing a new government of national union. [passage omitted].

Several political leaders were present at this news conference: Jodel Chambelain from FRAPH [Revolutionary Front For Haitian Advancement and Progress], Reynold

Georges, Carl Denis, Vladimir Jeanty for the 11 October Revolutionary Council. To be fashionable, the MDN leader expressed himself in Creole, in French, in Spanish, and in English—a matter of better voicing his message to the international press, he says. However, it was a futile effort because the foreign journalists had other business, perhaps more interesting, elsewhere. [passage omitted] [end recording]

WCC Supports Non-U.S. Military Intervention

FL2610233593 Bridgetown CANA in English 2158 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 26 Oct, CANA—The Geneva- based World Council of Churches (WCC) will support a United Nations military intervention in Haiti to solve that country's political crisis, a spokesman said.

Trinidad-born Rev. Clifford Payne, a WCC staff member, was also very categorical that the council would not support a United States- led force in Haiti.

"....That opens a whole new can of worms especially if that intervention is going to be by the United States that has a history, a record of intervention, not only in Haiti but in a number of Caribbean territories," he told reporters here.

"So we need to be clear about what we're saying... But certainly if it can be achieved through action by the UN, even military action, I think that would be an option that the World Council would endorse."

Rev. Payne said he did not believe the current political situation in Haiti would be resolved by itself.

"Something has to happen and... I do not believe that if you simply leave things to sort themselves out, that you will have a situation any different from the situation you have now," Rev. Payne said during a briefing on a WCC conference which starts on Friday.

"The Haitians who control Haiti have no interest in a just society because they benefit from the injustices of the present order and they will never in my view change voluntarily...

"I would hope that the UN could negotiate with the United States and come to some workable agreement which would ensure that it is the UN that takes the lead in any kind of intervention which may be required... This would be my solution, whether that's going to happen I seriously doubt."

Under a United Nations-brokered plan, ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was to have resumed office on October 30, but the failure of the Army leadership, which toppled Aristide in a September 1991 coup, to honour their part of the deal, has raised doubts about the proposed restoration of democracy.

Pro-Aristide Senators Propose Plan To Resolve Crisis

FL2710013393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] A new proposal has been made to break the Governors Island agreement deadlock. The constitutionalist bloc has presented a proposal for a way out of the crisis. Three constitutionalist anticorruption bloc senators drew up an 8-point proposal for the disentanglement of the crisis.

In this proposal, the senators close to President Aristide ask that the parliament first vote the law on the separation of the police and the Army, which would correspond—in their opinion—to the chronological order of the New York Pact, point 4. The three senators then envision President Aristide convening the National Assembly about a bill on the implementation of the presidential amnesty order.

In this proposal advocated by the constitutionalist anticorruption bloc, Senators Eudrice Raymond, [Jacques] Rony Mondestin, and Clark Parent ask Gen. Cedras to discuss with the government the procedures for his early retirement before tendering his resignation, which appears in point 6.

The proposal provides in point 2 for the setting up of international cooperation, provided for in point 5 of the Governors Island agreement. The third step in this proposal is for the government to obtain from the Armed Forces a guarantee of safety for the institutions and the population.

The seventh point provides for the appointment by President Aristide of a new Army commander in chief and a commander in chief of the national police. The eighth point provides for the return of the president to Port-au-Prince.

According to those who drafted this proposal, this execution program would be in compliance with the chronological order agreed on in both the Governors Island agreement and the New York pact.

Political Organizations Condemn Sanctions on Haiti

FL2610154493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] An assembly of political parties and organizations was held on 22 October to analyze the current situation. It strongly condemned the sanctions ordered by the UN and the OAS against Haiti. In a nine-article statement, those parties and organizations stated that the Governors Island Agreement was inoperative and condemned the attitude of the international mediator. The parties asked for the intervention and the arbitration of Pope John Paul II in the conflict between Haiti and the UN and the OAS.

This assembly of parties, including the National Union of Democratic Forces of former Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat [as heard] and the Assembly of Democrats For the Republic, RDR, a neo-Duvalierist party of attorney Gabriel demanded the resignation of Malval government, which is guilty of high treason.

The above-mentioned organizations also requested that the parliament take a stand as soon as possible on the psychiatric profile of President Aristide and called on the institutions to assume their responsibilities by applying the laws of the Republic in solving the political crisis.

Costa Rica

Parties Reach 'Ethical' Agreement on Campaign Methods

PA2610141393 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1519 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] San Jose, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Approximately three months prior to elections when campaigning is becoming intense, Costa Rica's Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) has managed to get the political parties to reach an "ethical" agreement about how to campaign by focusing on ideas rather than making personal attacks.

TSE President Rafael Villegas said the agreement puts "the ball in the political parties' court" and announced that magistrates will be on duty over the weekend to verify that the electoral process is developing in "a first-rate" manner. So far the TSE has suspended several media announcements by the governing Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC) and the social democratic National Liberation Party (PLN), mainly for using photographs of people without their authorization.

Despite the agreement, political sources believe that just as in previous campaigns, personal attacks will not be eliminated. However, the attacks will be toned down, especially concerning the two leading presidential candidates' past, one of the issues that has caused the biggest controversy.

PLN candidate, 38-year-old Jose Maria Figueres, is linked to an alleged murder that took place in 1973. A trial is currently under way against David and Jose Romero, who wrote a book on this case. They are being charged with slander and defamation. Referring to PUSC candidate, 53-year-old Rodriguez, Costa Rican reporters' investigations revealed he had problems with U.S. justice officials a decade ago, allegedly for illegally exporting beef. One of his enterprises eventually had to pay a $10,000 fine.

PLN President Carlos Manuel Castillo said today it is necessary for the parties to "really fulfill their pledge" to the TSE, adding that he nevertheless considers this "a step in the right direction." PUSC Secretary General Bernal Aragon said the fulfillment of this pledge "must be a joint action" by the Electoral Tribunal and the political parties and warned that a change in the tone of the campaign will depend on the attitude taken by the TSE magistrates.

Sixteen parties had signed up to participate in the electoral campaign by the time the candidates' registration period for the 6 February elections ended on Thursday. According to the latest polls, only seven of these parties will participate on a national scale and with a presidential candidate, although the PUSC and the PLN have registered 96 percent of the voters. Eight of the parties will participate at a provincial level with candidates for deputy seats, and one party will participate at the canton level with municipal candidates.

According to the results of a poll made public this week, Figueres Olsen, son of the late Social Democratic leader Jose Figueres Ferrer, who was president of Costa Rica three times, maintains a slight advantage over Rodriguez. Nevertheless, the poll revealed that despite the 3.3-point advantage (39.5 points to 36.2 points), the Social Democratic candidate has continuously slid downhill since his candidacy was declared on 6 June.

On 6 February almost 2 million Costa Ricans will elect the president, 57 Legislative Assembly deputies, and 81 municipal officials throughout the country.

El Salvador

President Cristiani Holds News Conference

PA2710042193 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1720 GMT 25 Oct 93

[News conference by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, hosted by an unidentified moderator with domestic reporters, following an inauguration ceremony at Zacamil Hospital in San Salvador; broadcast in progress—live relay]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified YSKL reporter] Good morning, YSKL listeners. At this moment we are on grounds of the new Zacamil Hospital, where at this moment President Cristiani is referring to this morning's slaying of FMLN leader Francisco Velis.

[Cristiani, in progress] ...to punish the guilty. We believe the country is at a very important crossroads in terms of its future. Such acts of violence, therefore, are out of place at this time—a time when the great majority of the Salvadoran people are trying to consolidate peace and a system of liberty that will permit everyone in our country to live together. Also, last week we issued instructions jointly with the Human Rights Division of Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] to enable an interagency commission, which will work in tandem with the commission investigating crimes, to follow up on every case that appears to be politically planned or motivated, because this is a practice we want to eradicate in our country.

We are going to try to uncover or investigate the existence or composition of groups that might be engaging in this type of violence. We want to bring them before the relevant courts in an effort to enable peace, which is what the majority of Salvadorans want, to prevail in El Salvador. For those of us who have been intent on consolidating the peace process, it seems important, first of all, to establish the reason or motive for crimes such as the one this morning. If this violence is political—violence for which there is no room in our country—we want to eliminate it and ensure that the full weight of the law falls on the guilty parties.

[Beltran] Good morning, Mr. President....

[Station announcer interrupting] We are listening to parts of President Alfredo Crisitani's answers with respect to the murder of FMLN leader Francisco Velis. At this time, the various media representatives are asking President Cristiani questions about the murder case and we are preparing to broadcast President Cristiani's reply on the incident.

[Cristiani] First of all, some of the recommendations made by the Truth Commission includes constitutional reforms. The Executive Branch in El Salvador is not empowered to approve any constitutional reforms. That can only be done by a group of no less than 10 deputies. We sent a note to the National Assembly Board of Directors explaining this issue in order for them to make the decisions on whether or not they would promote constitutional reforms. So far the reply we have received from the Board of Directors is that after having evaluated the request together with the members of the National Assembly political commission, they decided that given the proximity of the elections and the current environment in the country, it would be inconvenient to initiate constitutional reforms at this time. Therefore, as far as the Executive Branch is concerned, we cannot do more than what we have done because we are not empowered by law to take any further actions.

Second, the commission that was established in October 1992 to investigate all sorts of accusations and improper situations that were made public, but mainly to investigate charges of corruption, embezzlement, improper use of public funds, concluded its investigation and presented its report this morning. I understand that the media was invited to cover the report presentation but most of you could not make it because you decided instead to cover this event.

[Cristiani continues] The report is divided into three areas. One consists of the investigation itself, in other words, the auditing of cases made public as well as others that the commission decided to investigate on its own initiative and presented the results of those audits. There have been more than 100 cases subject to investigation. Practically, the entire Executive Branch and its departments were subject to some sort of auditing process. We plan to forward this part of the commission's report to the Prosecutor General's Office for it to determine which cases will continue to be investigated in a more judicially in-depth manner.

The commission had no judicial faculty since it was merely an administrative commission and in fact, as you well know, those involved in corruption cases do not tend to leave much evidence of their deeds. The commission stated this morning that there are some cases where there is evidence of wrongdoing and others where there was no evidence to sustain the charges. However, for legal purposes there would be need for a more in-depth investigation. Moreover, the Prosecutor General's Office will be in charge of the operational management of the commission on criminal acts now that it is transferred to the PNC [National Civilian Police]. Therefore we believe it is the best place to pursue an investigation into those cases where it is believed there is sufficient evidence to carry the case to court.

In my opinion, the important or probably most important issue in all of this is that the commission, in addition to the audits it performed, also made various recommendations to reform several of the country's laws. Some of these recommendations were general and others were quite specific, but all were aimed at preventing corruption. The commission members pointed out that too many regulations and laws tend to open the door to loopholes that lead to corrupt acts and that it is necessary to search for reforms to prevent this from taking place. As they indicated, once this type of incident takes place it is very difficult to prove because anyone who gets involved in corrupt acts will not leave evidence to be easily traced.

We believe that this is important in order for the country to slowly incorporate these legal, administrative, judicial, and legislative reforms as part of the state's modernization policies to crack down on corruption. We are committed to evaluating the proposals and presenting the commission's report to the National Assembly within a 30-day period for it to further analyze the recommendations. In summarizing, the commission has concluded its assignment, investigated more than 100 corruption cases, and has presented recommendations to prevent corrupt acts. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Julio Rodriguez from Megavision.

[Rodriguez] President Cristiani, I have here the report by the secretary general of Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador]. If you look at the part of the eight officers of the Armed Forces who are in the category of those who should be removed from their posts, have you begun to take any measures regarding these eight officers? Have they been removed? Another question is if you have begun to make any contact with Mr. Ramirez Ocampo to establish the timetable and limits to fulfill most of the Truth Commission recommendations.

[Cristiani] First of all, if you read the report fully you will see that the topic was brought up and discussed by the Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace]. Copaz sent a letter to the secretary general in which it virtually concluded that both the disqualifications and removals should not be carried out, given that our process is to integrate all of the people into participation in the process we are carrying out. That is how the secretary general understood it. Then the FMLN, which participated in the Copaz consensus, surprisingly enough sent a separate letter saying it only agrees with the part that affects it, but not the part that affects the Armed Forces officers. What the secretary general will do is request further explanation from Copaz on the topic. Consequently we have not done anything regarding eight of the 40 plus officers named there, given the resolution by Copaz and the understanding that this is something the Truth Commission recommends as punishment for

those who the commission estimates could have been involved in some acts of violence from 1980 to date.

[Excerpts] If it speaks in other cases of disqualifications and removals, both cases are the product, let us say, of some punishment for the same cause, that is, for participating in any act of violence. The punishment to be meted out will depend on who is involved in the act of violence. In this sense, Copaz had recommended that the status quo prevail, that is that everyone should participate in the electoral process and in the country's everyday life.

There has never been a timetable and it has never been demanded. I want to explain that what has been mentioned as 20 November is not a date for all the agreements to have been concluded, obviously this would be impossible. What has been mentioned for 20 November is that all of that, in which there is some problem or in which the FMLN does not agree with a certain thing or wants it modified for any reason, anything dealing with the fulfillment of the agreements may be free of problems. In this way everyone can be clear about how many of these agreements will continue to be fulfilled. Obviously, the PNC will not have been concluded by 20 November, nor will all the lands of the land transfer program be distributed by 20 November. The important thing, however, is that this can progress in such a manner that everyone is in agreement and everything can march in that direction. This is the work we have been carrying out for several weeks with Dr. Ramirez Ocampo of Onusal.

[Rodriguez] In his letter the secretary general apparently responds that the disqualifications can be considered unfulfilled or something that can remain undone. The removal from the posts, however, is something that he says can be accomplished.

[Cristiani] That is what Shafik Handal said in a letter to the secretary. The secretary does not say that.

[Rodriguez] But in a part of his report he recommends it. Then, one question. Who are the eight soldiers, the eight officers?

[Cristiani] That is not relevant. The only one who has said that one thing is not like the other is the FMLN, not the secretary general.

[Moderator] Luis Campos, DIARIO LATINO.

[Campos] President Cristiani, what will the Executive Branch recommend to the Legislative Assembly, because apparently the nonfulfillment of the recommendations by the Truth Commission are reportedly encouraging the actions of the so-called death squads?

[Cristiani] What nonfulfillment of the recommendations of the Truth Commission?

[Campos] That which the UN secretary general mentioned regarding the completion of the timetable.

[Cristiani] There is not a single word about nonfulfillment anywhere in the UN secretary general's report. Can you find any reference by the UN secretary general to nonfulfillment in the report? He does mention the progress made in the process saying that the great majority of the process is moving forward and being fulfilled at this time.

[Campos] He speaks specifically about the restrictions and the Judicial Branch, for example.

[Cristiani] The secretary general himself has said that if a representative organization such as Copaz suggests not following the Truth Commission recommendations, he is willing to back the decision. The secretary general received a letter from Copaz stating that we should all participate in the new phase in the Salvadoran process. By this they meant that disqualifications and removals should not be carried out. Of course this would apply to the disqualifications that are still pending, as the great majority had already been carried out.

There is no such nonfulfillment. What he says in his report is that he will ask Copaz to explain why the representative of the FMLN acted unilaterally, despite being a part in the process and having signed the first letter. The FMLN sent a letter saying they agree with that which affects them—halting the disqualifications—but not with the other part. Other than that, there is no other mention of nonfulfillment. Maybe someone invented the word nonfulfillment.

FMLN Calls for Political Measures To Eradicate Death Squads

PA2610191393 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Report by Jose Cuneta for the "Period, Same Paragraph" newscast]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, proposed political measures to eradicate the death squads following the murder of member Francisco Veliz.

It is time to get rid of the death squads, FMLN Coordinator Jorge Shafik Handal said. He added he has instructed the FMLN rank and file and departmental committees to conduct political activities to eradicate the death squads and organized crime.

[Begin Handal recording] The FMLN has implemented measures to set all factors into motion that could help us achieve this objective. First, we have decided to mobilize the FMLN rank and file throughout the country. Instructions and guidance have been sent to all municipal and departmental committees to inform them and to activate all FMLN rank and file in a great campaign against organized crime and the death squads. [end recording]

The FMLN leaders called for the creation of an independent organization that would enjoy the confidence of all

sectors to conduct an in-depth investigation into the death squads. There is enough evidence to begin an investigation of those paramilitary groups, Handal added.

The FMLN added that its militants, together with other Salvadoran sectors, will remain alert and continue to demand that government institutions investigate the violent acts perpetrated by armed right-wing groups.

Finally, Handal said the credibility of the electoral process and of the country's democratization will depend on the investigations into the death squad activities.

Defense Minister Says Armed Forces Budget Insufficient

PA2710030993 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Oct 93

[From the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] Defense Minister Colonel Humberto Corado yesterday told the Legislative Assembly Finance and Budget Commission the Armed Forces budget is insufficient to defend the state's sovereignty. Defense Minister Corado met with the Finance and Budget Commission on Wednesday and tried to justify to its members the budget that the Finance Ministry had granted the defense branch.

Although the military sector will receive 866.483 million colones in 1994, the high-ranking military officer said this is insufficient to cover the Armed Forces demands.

[Begin Corado recording] We can see the military budget barely represents 9 percent of the overall budget. Logically, it is far from the amount we, as military professionals, believe is adequate for our national defense.

We understand perfectly well the situation we currently face; we understand perfectly well the country's economic situation is not exactly a bonanza; and we understand perfectly well we are immersed in a post-conflict process. Logically, this compels us—as a military corps—to adapt ourselves to the budget. [end recording]

During his meeting with the parliamentary members Col. Corado insisted on the need to consider the Armed Forces' budget as an investment because, once the country's stability is guaranteed, it can strive to achieve a national economic development.

[Begin Corado recording] It is advisable for the Salvadoran people to understand that national defense is expensive anywhere in the world, and the resources earmarked for the Defense Ministry must be considered an investment rather than an expense. It is an investment that derives benefits for the country. [end recording]

Despite the statement made by opposition Deputy Ruben Zamora, who said the Defense Ministry received more than what was earmarked for next year, the military commander said the Treasury and Finance Commission members felt satisfied with the lucidity in which the defense budget was itemized.

Guatemala

Draft Bill on Constitution Reforms Part 2

PA2610224193 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Oct 93 p 8

[Second of two parts of "text" of draft bill on reforms to the Guatemalan Constitution drawn up by a group of deputies from the diverse parliamentary political blocs; all chapter and article numbers as published]

[Text]

Text of Draft Bill on Reforms to Constitution of the Republic

Second and Final Part

Supreme Court

Article 216: Composition of the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has three magistrates, including the president of the Judicial Branch, and is composed of the courts determined by law. The president of the Judicial Branch is also the president of the Supreme Court.

Article 217: Election of Supreme Court magistrates

The Supreme Court magistrates will be elected by the Congress of the Republic for a five-year period:

They will be selected from a list of 52 candidates nominated by the General Judiciary Council.

The Supreme Court magistrates will elect a president among their members every year in January. The president may be reelected.

Article 218: Requirements To Become Supreme Court Magistrate

To be elected Supreme Court magistrate, in addition to the prerequisites to become Court of Appeals judge, it is required to be over 40 years of age, to have served a complete term as court of appeals magistrate or exercised the profession of lawyer for more than 15 years.

Section Three

Court of Appeals and Other Courts

Article 217: Magistrates

(...second paragraph...)

The magistrates referred to in this article will be elected by the General Judiciary Council from a list proposed by

the School of Judicial Studies. The number of candidates on the list will be three times the number of magistrates to be elected.

Article 219: Military Courts

The military courts will try crimes or military violations committed by the members of the Guatemalan Army. No civilian will be tried by military courts or by any other specialized court.

Title 5

Structure and Organization of the State

Chapter 1: Electoral Political Regimen

Article 223: Freedom To Organize and Operate Political Organizations

...Electoral campaign events are banned before an electoral event is convoked. The executive may not promote his public works through propaganda after elections have been convoked.

Chapter II: Administrative Regimen

Article 225: National Council for Urban and Rural Development

The National Council For Urban and Rural Development is created for the organization and coordination of public administration. It coordinates with the vice president of the Republic.

Article 226: Regional Council for Urban and Rural Development

The regions that have been established by law will have a Regional Council for Urban and Rural Development. Governors of the region will rotate each year as council chairmen and the council will be made up of a representative of the municipal corporations from each of the departments of the region as well as of representatives from the public and private institutions established by law.

The presidents of these councils will make up the National Council for Urban and Rural Development.

Article 227: Governors

The departmental government will be headed by a governor, who will be elected by direct vote. He must have the same qualifications as a minister of state and will have the same immunity privileges as the latter. He must have lived in the department where he was elected for the five years prior to his election.

Chapter III: Fiscal Control and Supervision System

Article 232: Comptroller General of Accounts Office [Contraloria General de Cuentas]

The Comptroller General of Accounts Office is a technical institution, a public administration branch, autonomous, and will have the following functions:

a) Supervises the revenues and expenditures of state institutions, municipalities, decentralized and autonomous institutions, as well as any person receiving state funds or who collects public funds;

b) Controls compliance with the implementation of the budget approved by Congress;

c) Controls the legality of public administration procedures in contracts for goods and services;

d) Supervises accounting operations of contractors for public projects or any person authorized by the state to invest or manage public funds.

Article: [no article number as published] Comptroller General of Accounts Office Council [El Consejo de la Contraloria General de Cuentas]

The Comptroller General of Accounts Office will function under the general direction of the Comptroller General's Accounts Council, which will be made up as follows:

1. The Comptroller General of Accounts, who will head the council;

2. A representative from the Association of Economists, Accountants, and Public Auditors;

3. One representative elected by each dean of the Economy and Public Auditing Schools;

4. One representative elected by the legally established business associations;

5. One representative elected by legally established labor organizations.

The Council will meet regularly, at least once a month.

Article 233: Election of Comptroller General of Accounts

Congress will elect the Comptroller General of Accounts for a period of four years by absolute majority, from a list of five candidates proposed by a nominating commission, made up of:

a) A person appointed by the deans of the Economy, Accounting, and Public Auditing Schools;

b) A person appointed by the Association of Economists, Accountants, and Public Auditors;

The Comptroller General can only be removed by Congress due to negligence, crime, or lack of qualifications. He will issue an analytical report to Congress on his work

and budget implementation any time requested, and twice a year without request. He will have the same immunity privileges as Appeals Court magistrates. Under no circumstances can the Comptroller General of Accounts be reelected.

Article: [no article number as published] Attributes of the Comptroller General of Accounts Council

The attributes of the Comptroller General of Accounts Council are:

1. Determine the general policy and criteria to further the supervision and control of the Institution's functions and to evaluate its results;

2. Report the decisions made to government organizations and institutions as well as to any organization that is subject to supervision and control;

3. Appoint the Institution's directors and other personnel specified by law, at the proposal of the Comptroller General;

4. Approve the yearly analytical report on the budget's implementation and the periodic reports that the Comptroller General has to presented to the Congress of the Republic;

5. Approve or modify the proposal for the Institution's general expense budget, which is to be presented by the Comptroller General;

6. Promote appropriate administrative practices to enhance the Institution's services;

7. Study all the suggestions prepared by the Comptroller General and any of the Institution's departments to improve their functions;

8. Agree, reform, and interpret the regulations that are issued;

9. Order the Comptroller General to make the necessary investigations in cases where there is suspicion that crimes have been committed;

10. Periodically, at least every three months, study and discuss the activities report rendered by the Comptroller General.

Article 234: Requirements to be Comptroller General of Accounts and Member of the Comptroller General's Council

To be the Comptroller General of Accounts and member of the Comptroller General's Council it is required that the person be a Guatemalan citizen, over 40 years old, of acknowledged respectability and professional prestige, enjoying full citizen rights, not having any pending trials on accounts matters, and having exercised his profession at least 10 years.

Chapter IV

Financial Administration

Article 237: Government General Income and Expenditures Budget

The Government's General Income and Expenditures Budget must be approved by the Congress of the Republic for each fiscal exercise in accordance with the stipulations included in the Constitution. The budget is to specify and include all the income that is expected to be obtained and details of expenses and investments to be made.

The budget's unity and its program structure, based on geographic departments, is compulsory. All government revenues are an indivisible common fund to be exclusively destined to cover public expenses.

When the law so establishes it, decentralized and autonomous organizations can have private budgets and funds. It is compulsory that such budgets be sent annually and not less than three months prior to their implementation to the Executive Branch and the Congress of the Republic, for their knowledge and inclusion in the General Budget. Furthermore, such budgets will be subject to the same controls and supervision carried out in all government organizations. The law can establish that other offices, under the Executive Branch, have funds that are to be managed privately to ensure more efficient management. In all those cases the lack of compliance with legal formalities will be penalized and the institutions' officials or office chiefs will be held personally responsible for compliance with all the requirements.

All special expenses and investments not included in the Government's General Income and Expense Budget must be decreed by the Congress of the Republic as an extension of the Government's General Income and Expense Budget and, for its approval, must comply with the same requirements and procedures necessary to approve the regular General Budget. All officials who make special expenses or expenditures, which have not been approved by the Congress of the Republic, will be held personally responsible for them.

Article 238: Budget Charter

The Budget Charter will regulates the following:

g) The way to check public spending and cases that are highly certified and approved by the Congress in which additional expenses are disbursed.

The general budget of revenues and expenditures must abide by the following guidelines:

a) Changes in the objectives programmed by the budget will require prior authorization by the Congress of the Republic;

b) Transfers from the investment program to the functioning program may not be made. The Congress must expeditiously approve or reject all transfers in general;

c) The heads of public entities and state executing units have the responsibility of implementing the budgeted programs and projects. Failure to implement is subject to sanctions.

d) Foreign loans may be not obtained to cover the State's functioning expenses.

e) Spending may not exceed revenues; fiscal revenues estimates... and loans for which firms offers have been received and those already contracted are the only things to be regarded as revenues.

f) Whenever a project or service is contracted for a period that covers two or more fiscal years, the necessary funds must be provided for its completion.

Article 239: (Principle of Legality)

It is up to the Congress of the Republic to levy ordinary and extraordinary taxes and special contributions in conformity with the needs of the state and based on equitable and just taxation and to determine the bases for collecting taxes, chiefly the following:

d) The taxable base and the nature of the tax;

g) Tax evasion is an infringement of the law and is punishable.

Article 240: (State Investments and Expenditures)

Any law that entails state investments and expenditures must indicate from what source the funds will be taken to pay for them.

No less than 10 percent of the total sum of taxes that are in effect collected in every department of the republic must invested in said department. To that effect, the investment is to be made jointly with the Departmental Development Council.

Article 214: (Report on State Accounts)

The Executive and Judicial Branches will submit annually to the Congress, no later than three months after the fiscal period ends, a report on State accounts and the implementation of the State's general budget for revenues and expenditures. Decentralized and autonomous entities have a similar obligation.

The Congress of the Republic will forward such accounts and reports to the Comptroller General's Office to conduct the appropriate settlements and to issue a report in two months at the latest. After receiving the report, the Congress will review and approve or reject totally or partially the report and the settlements.

The same procedure is to be followed with regard to the accounts of decentralized and autonomous entities.

As for state organizations and entities that are authorized to make private expenditures, the settlement of their accounts is to be included in the settlement of the Executive Branch expenditures, where they are to be specifically mentioned.

The Congress or its regular committees may request reports or explanations they deem appropriate, and if punishable offenses are detected they must be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office.

Once the settlement of the budget is approved, a summary of the state's financial situation will be published in the official gazette.

Pending Drafting by Jorge Skinner

Chapter VI: Attorney General's Office

Article 251: Attorney General's Office

The Attorney General's Office is an autonomous institution, an auxiliary of public administration and the courts. Its main objectives are to watch over the strict fulfillment of the country's laws and represent the State.

It organization and operation will be regulated by its basic law.

Article 252: Attorney General of the Nation and Chief of the Attorney General's Office

The Attorney General of the Nation will be appointed by the president of the Republic. His term will be for five years and he must be an active member of the Bar, be more than 40 years old, of well-known prestige and honor, effectively exercising his profession or in the judicial service or the Attorney General's Office for more than 10 years, and he will have the same preeminence and immunity as the magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice. He will have the functions that the basic law of the Attorney General's Office establishes.

The Congress of the Republic will hold the pretrial hearing against the Attorney General of the Nation.

The president of the Republic has the power to remove him through the just causes the basic law of the Attorney General's Office establishes.

Article 252: bis Council of the Attorney General's Office

The Attorney General's Office functions under the general directorate of the Council of the Attorney General's Office, which is formed as follows:

a) The Attorney General of the Nation, who will preside over it; in his absence, it will be presided by the assistant attorney general.

b) The Prosecutor General of the Republic or whoever replaces him hierarchically.

c) A full member and an alternate elected by the Congress of the Republic.

e) A full member and an alternate appointed by the Supreme Court of Justice.

f) The government minister, as an ex-officio member, who can be replaced by the deputy minister.

g) The human rights ombudsman, as an ex-officio member, who can be replaced by the assistant ombudsman.

h) A member of the Bar Association and an alternate elected by the General Assembly.

i) A full member and an alternate elected by a majority of votes of the deans of the Law or Legal and Social Sciences Schools in the country. If there is no agreement on the election, the positions will be drawn from the candidates proposed by the deans.

Article 253: bis bis [as published] Functions of the Council of the Attorney General's Office

The functions of the Council of the Attorney General's Office

a) Decide the general policy of the institution;

b) Establish the general policies and guidelines to prosecute crime and evaluate their results;

c) Make known the adopted decisions to the various state agencies;

d) Appoint the directors of the institution and others the law establishes, from among the lists of three candidates formulated by the attorney general. If the proposal were to be rejected, a new list would be drawn up;

e) Approve or modify the draft general budget of the institution, which will be presented by the attorney general;

f) Foster administrative practices that improve the services of the Attorney General's Office;

g) Hear the suggestions made by the attorney general and any of the directors of the institution to improve their functions;

i) Agree on, reform or interpret the regulations that are issued.

j) Order the attorney general and the prosecutor general to undertake investigations in cases in which it is suspected crimes have been committed;

k) Periodically, but at least every three months, hear and discuss the reports of activities rendered by the attorney general and the prosecutor general.

l) Appoint any of its full or alternate members, with the exception of the government minister, to gather reports, issue opinions on specific issues or report on unique situations.

Group Issues Communique Explaining Congress Occupation

PA2610230493 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Communique issued by the Mutual Support Group in Guatemala City on 26 October; from the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] Here is an urgent communique from the Mutual Support Group, GAM, in which it explains to the national and international community the reasons for occupying the Congress. Total: Two pages.

A. For the past 10 years we have demanded a serious investigation of the case of 45,000 people who were arrested and are missing and on the 150,000 people who were murdered and whose relatives did not even receive minimum compensation.

B. For three consecutive governments we have requested that, for investigative purposes, a commission with international verification duties be established. This commission would deal with cases of the arrested and missing, and with murder cases. Clandestine cemeteries would be the means to discover the truth.

C. Now, more than ever, it is possible to create this truth commission because the public statements made by three inmates at Pabon, namely, Jorge Lemus, (Francisco Solbay Santay), and Tiburcio Hernandez refer clearly and openly to the horrible events that have cast the country into mourning and that could offer concrete evidence on the perpetrators and masterminds of these actions. We are especially interested in finding out the final whereabouts of our loved ones.

D. It is important to remind the deputies of the National Congress that the country's political structure cannot be changed, as planned, through a constitutional reform alone in an attempt to give it a new political face unless the truth is exposed, because it is impossible to build the new Guatemala that we have dreamed of and for which we all fought for using impunity as a foundation.

Thus, we demand:

1. That the bill on the Truth Commission be subjected again to the necessary formalities. This bill was already presented in 1991 to the Presidency and the Congress Human Rights Committee.

2. Now is the time for the deputies to show their political will to change the country's current situation by giving thousands of families the opportunity to clear doubts and mourn relatives they lost in cities and the countryside.

3. The three Pabon inmates, namely, Jorge Lemus, (Francisco Solbay Santay), and Tiburcio Hernandez—two of them former Army specialists—be key witnesses on this commission. For this purpose, we request guarantees and protection for their lives.

4. We report that at this time in Solola and Quiche our friends are simultaneously carrying out a similar action at the Office of the Human Rights Attorney General and Public Prosecutor's Office. They are presenting the same proposal and requesting that the human rights ombudsman and the Public Prosecutor's Office participate in this commission.

5. We urge the government to immediately implement a comprehensive agreement on human rights accompanied by international verification. This will make possible the holding of genuine talks to end the internal armed conflict.

6. We request the support and collaboration of our friends of Conadegua [National Human Rights Coordinating Board of Guatemala] and urge the human rights ombudsman to attend this congress. We urge the president of this institution to pay attention to our just demands.

We will not leave this facility until we obtain a positive reply.

For life and liberty, GAM is here!

[Signed] Members of Conadegua, (Pedefam), Codehuca [Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America], UASP [Labor and Popular Action Union], and (FMS).

Human Rights Group Peacefully Occupies Congress

PA2610194793 Paris AFP in Spanish 1906 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 (AFP)—Approximately 100 members of the National Human Rights Coordinating Board of Guatemala (Conadegua) today peacefully occupied Congress to protest a constitutional reform package that the Legislative Branch is discussing, spokesmen for the group reported.

Conadegua, formed by eight human rights organizations, also demanded the creation of a "Truth Commission" to investigate human rights violations over the past 33 years of armed conflict in this Central American country.

The group entered the congressional building at approximately 1000 (1600 GMT) and since then has remained in front of the office of Christian Democrat and Congress President Fernando Lobo Dubon.

Nineth Montenegro, a Conadegua leaders, told the media that the occupiers will not leave the building until Lobo meets with them.

A contingent of national policemen has been deployed to the site to prevent disturbances and, according to Lobo, "to guarantee that Congress can function."

A package of reforms to the country's constitution, which was promulgated in 1985, will be presented on Wednesday for discussion by Congress. The initiative includes a proposal to reduce the presidential term, currently five years, and to call early elections. Guatemala has been experiencing a permanent political crisis since May, when deposed President Jorge Serrano disrupted constitutional order by dissolving Congress and the Supreme Court with the objective of governing by decree.

Current President Ramiro De Leon Carpio demanded the resignation of all deputies and justices of the Supreme Court two months ago. In response, the legislators have presented the package of reforms under discussion.

Honduras

Situation Along Nicaraguan Border Remains 'Unchanged'

PA2710043693 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 26 Oct 93 p 6

[Text] Colonel Guillermo Antonio Linares Zepeda, commander of the 110th Brigade of El Paraiso, reported yesterday that the only new thing in the area bordering with Nicaragua is that 42 persons from the group of refugees that entered Honduras last week have returned to their country.

The military officer feels that the situation remains unchanged along the Nicaraguan border, in the area of Arenales, Trojes. "The information we have is that 'El Chacal' [Jose Angel Talavera] is moving around the banks of Poteca River," he said.

Likewise, he said that the mission of the Armed Forces is not confronting "but preventing that the leader of the recontras enters into the country under arms. Should he enter the country, we will turn him over to the UN High Commission for Refugees."

Linares Zepeda said that in the area of La Esperanza there are as many as 100 refugees including women, children, and men, and it is difficult to provide them with food in view of the highway situation. Food and assistance were delivered by COPECO [expansion unknown] to the military for them to distribute among the Nicaraguan refugees.

Nicaragua

Presidency Minister Announces Public Expenditure Reductions

PA2610192993 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Report by Maria Elsa Suazo from the "National" newscast]

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo has announced the signing of agreements with the World

Bank geared toward reducing public expenditures so resources can be released to the productive sector.

[Begin Lacayo recording] More than reductions, it means we will have to curtail expenses and several loopholes and positions in the Executive Branch, which are paid for out of the institutions' budgets. We will possibly tax a few luxury items that the national consensus indicates should be limited. Such measures will accompany the reductions, which, to the extent possible, will be carried out with a policy of paying 36 months in wages. We will discuss the measure with each of the institutions' unions as this program will cover 1994, 1995, and 1996. It will be a gradual program and one that will allow us to move people from the nonproductive sector to the productive one. [end recording]

Lacayo added that the government has been making efforts to reorganize foreign debt payments in the international sphere. He stated, however, that there are several debts that must be paid to multilateral organizations.

[Begin Lacayo recording] The lesson we should learn from the terrible debts we acquired in past decade is that we cannot play with such things. The future arrives sooner or later, and we have to pay. That should be a lesson to us. Nicaragua cannot go into hock in such an irresponsible manner again. We feel that the only way to advance is to start with the basics and promote production. [end recording]

The minister said there will be specific results on the national dialogue very soon. He emphasized that the Police force is working to solve acts of violence such as the foiled murder of Patricia Auro de Lacayo and that they are already on the track of cattleman Leopoldo Serrano's murderers.

500 Former Military, Civilians Set Up Barricades in Esteli

PA2710030393 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 26 Oct 93 pp 1, 8

[Text] Approximately 500 men belonging to the Peasant-Worker Revolutionary Front [FROC], AMIR [expansion unknown], Dignity and Sovereignty Command, and even some civilians have set up barricades at the northern and southern exits of Esteli and "will remain there until the government decides to listen to their demands," according to an announcement made by one of their leaders.

William Montalvan, representative of the Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] of Region 1, said that the government refuses to give them the land within the city that was promised to them. "They want to give us some land located 5 km from Esteli where there is no electricity or water. There is not even a remote possibility that those services will be provided someday in that area," Montalvan pointed out.

As an alternative, the government has offered them 1,000 cordobas. Nonetheless, a lot of developed land in Esteli costs 2,500 cordobas, and that is the amount that the former military are demanding from the Government Ministry authorities who have met with them. "They have mocked us, and we do not want to think that the government is waiting for a second Esteli with more deaths and bloodshed to occur before it sits down to negotiate," Montalvan pointed out.

Meanwhile, Donald Mendoza, a former EPS major, yesterday held a news conference where he announced that for the sake of peace he and his men are laying down their weapons in Matagalpa as of 22 October. Mendoza said that in principle he supported the demands of the people from Esteli who decided to block all access to their city in order to exert pressure for compliance with the agreements signed earlier. "The government is forcing the people to take desperate actions," said the former military officer who was waiting yesterday for a call to negotiate the delivery of 7,000 lots of land, land titles, and some small enterprises.

In view of the government's refusal to send a commission with power of decision to give them an answer, the former Sandinist soldiers—who since Sunday have kept transportation practically paralyzed at the southern exit of the city—proceeded on Monday afternoon to take over the installations of the Government Ministry, Social Action Ministry [MAS], Organization for the Development of the Northern Area [Pronorte], Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies [Ineter], Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal Development [Inifom], and Municipal Land Survey.

The offices of these installations, which are grouped in what used to be the old municipal compound, are now under the control of several rebels who are wearing hoods but who are unarmed. These rebels claim this is a civic, nonviolent action, as some of the Managua media have reported.

Likewise, scores of former soldiers from PL-1 and PL-2 [expansions unknown] have posted themselves at the southern exit of the city, specifically on the eastern side of the San Francisco Institute. Up until the time we went to press, there had not been any confrontation with the authorities. The rebels from the AMIR, lead by their departmental board of directors with former 1st Lieutenant Felix Pedro Rivera at the head, said that unless a commission with power of decision from the government of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro arrives within the next few hours, they will intensify their actions at other state institutions and they will completely halt transportation in the department.

As a sign of goodwill to obtain negotiations without affecting the people, the rebels are not completely halting transportation, which is operating partially because of the blockade at the southern exit of the city. The former

soldiers are demanding that the government immediately deliver 294 lots of developed land or a compensation of 3,000 cordobas for each one of them. In addition, they are demanding that the government pay for a farm seized by the former military men and property of Hector Castillo. Even though this had been agreed previously, no payment has been made yet.

In the region there are over 1,200 former EPS officers, of which 516 are from Esteli Department. Of those, only 222 have received their lots of development land, including the 150 who continue to hold the farm of Hector Castillo. Therefore, they urge the government to give a positive answer as soon as possible to prevent regrettable events in the future.

Lieutenant Colonel Pedro Antonio Aburcia, chief of the EPS 1st Command, and Deputy Commander Jore Almendarez, acting chief of the departmental police, met with the rebels and promised them that they will intercede before the government offices to solve the problem without any regrettable events. In addition, it was learned that Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta issued specific orders to departmental delegate Crisanto Castillo so he will guarantee open roads for transportation in Esteli, while making use of public force. Nonetheless, up until late Monday night, the police authorities had not taken any action against the strikers.

Panama

Labor Minister Resigns To Participate in Campaign

PA2610150593 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Lastenia Murillo Munoz]

[Text] During a 25 October meeting with reporters, Labor Minister Jorge Ruben Rosas publicly announced his resignation to participate in the political campaign for the 1994 elections.

Rosas, who tendered his resignation to President Guillermo Endara to run for a legislative seat for Chiriqui Province, said he will leave his post on 1 November.

Rosas was appointed labor minister in 1990. In outlining his work during that period, he stressed that his policy was promoting negotiations to resolve conflicts and seeking harmonious solutions for labor problems.

"In approximately four years there have been no unsettled conflicts, except for one case, which affected 41 workers for a short period," Rosas noted.

Rosas added that minimum wages, which have not been revised since 1982, have improved 21.5 percent. He noted that this is the highest minimum wage increase in history "since the topic was incorporated into our constitutional legal order." It is also the highest minimum wage in Latin America.

Rosas said he received the ministry with 7,000 idle workers as a result of the closing of 264 business establishments during the 1989 military intervention. That was the first problem he had to face.

He noted that dismissals were prevented through administrative measures in accordance with preexisting legal procedures.

Rosas and several other ministers must resign their posts—as established by the Electoral Code—before 1 November, six months before the 8 May 1994 elections.

On 1 November President Endara is expected to renew the cabinet that will accompany him for the remainder of his presidential term.

Arrested Legislator Claims U.S. Customs Set Up 'Trap'

PA2710024393 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 25 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] Legislator Anel Ramirez has disclosed that his colleague Aberlardo Antonio had accompanied him to look at a boat that two Colombian investors were going to purchase. These Colombians were identified by U.S. Customs as drug traffickers. Ramirez, detained in Tampa under drug-trafficking charges, made these statement to a Legislative Assembly Commission that interviewed him last week at the Hillsborough District prison. According to Ramirez, Colombians Genaro Arias Londono and Pablo Perez intended to pay $1.5 million for the boat "Shalom," being auctioned off.

The Darien legislator argues that his arrest is the result of a "trap" set up by U.S. Customs while he denied any links of other Assembly members in drug trafficking activity. The arrested legislator also said he had talked with his colleague Melquiades Riega on the Colombian "investors"' intentions to promote a tourism project in the Western Panama sector. Ramirez' information at no time linked Riega and Abelardo Antonio to illegal activities nor suggests that they had engaged in contacts with Colombians Genaro Arias Londono and Pablo Perez.

Ramirez also told Commission members that the majority of the Democratic Revolutionary Party legislators "excluding Mario Rognoni, Miguel Bush, and Franklin Rivera," had attended a party held at his home in Las Cumbres where Arias Londono and Perez also participated. The event took place in July and Ramirez said that at that time he believed that the Colombians were "investors."

Argentina

Santiago del Estero Legislature Begins Impeachment Process

PY2610223293 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Oct 93 p 11

[Text] Santiago del Estero (DYN-NA)—The Santiago del Estero legislature's impeachment committee voted last night to initiate proceedings against Governor Carlos Mujica (Justicialist), while the national government indicated it hoped to avoid taking over the provincial administration despite the severe financial and political crisis it is facing.

However, the full assembly voted to wait until tomorrow to act on the committee's report as Mujica is set to meet today with Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf in Buenos Aires to discuss possible answers to the province's difficulties.

If no solution is reached by tomorrow Mujica will be suspended for 90 days while his issue is debated.

Meanwhile, Carlos Ruckauf said last night that the government was considering the possibility of appointing a trustee to run the province only as "a last resort."

"We are consulting with all groups to find an institutional solution within the province," added Ruckauf, who met yesterday with former Tucuman trustee Julio Cesar Araoz, rumoured to be in line for the same position in this province in the event of a takeover. Today Senator Carlos Juarez, one of Mujica's dissident Peronist opponents, will also meet with the interior minister.

Ruckauf expressed concern over the severity of the province's economic situation. The lack of funds in Santiago del Estero's coffers means civil servants are owed back pay, and resulting teachers strikes have meant that its schools have opened their doors only 54 days this year, he noted.

Earlier in the day the governor held talks with Radical and dissident Peronist legislators in an attempt to stave off the impeachment proceedings brought by the Justicialist offshoot Renewal Party. Together the dissident Peronists led by Deputy Cesar Iturre and Radicals headed by Deputy-elect Jose Luis Zavalia could muster the two-thirds plus one votes needed in the 45-member assembly to oust Mujica.

Despite his difficulties the embattled governor told Radio Mitre that "I see no reason to resign" and denied receiving any official statement from the national government regarding the possibility of a takeover of the provincial government.

Mujica explained the province's financial woes as "an inheritance we received" from previous administrations in the form of an increase in the number of provincial civil servants.

The governor justified his administration's lack of action regarding the provincial payroll on the grounds that "we have to rule with the public's support and cannot take lightly a measure affecting employment."

Various opposition leaders issued calls for Santiago del Estero's woes to be resolved through constitutional means not a federal takeover.

The Radical National Committee noted in a statement released yesterday that "the democratic system includes adequate mechanisms for resolving situations such as that in Santiago del Estero without the need to violate the normal functioning of (its) institutions."

Both the provincial Radical Committee and Iturre stressed that the Constitution provided effective means to resolve the issue of whether Mujica should be removed from office.

In addition, 14 national deputies introduced a bill last night sponsored by Radical Juan Pablo Baylac in which they noted the "fraud and ineptitude" among Santiago del Estero's leaders but nevertheless rejected any attempt by the administration of President Carlos Menem to take over the province.

Modin Party Advocates Abstention, No-Vote at Plebiscite

PY2610184693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1227 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Oct (NA)—The Movement for Independence and Dignity (Modin) will "categorically" oppose "the constitutional reform proposal that has been approved by the Senate," and calls on the people to "vote no or abstain" in the plebiscite that the Executive Branch has called for 21 November.

The decision, which was adopted yesterday by the Modin National Executive Board, was announced by Modin leader Aldo Rico during a press conference. He added that Modin deputies "will oppose the reform." Rico explained that this position "does not mean anticipating the position of the legislators, because the bill may be modified in the lower house."

Modin criticizes "the project that will be subject to a plebiscite, because it does not consider the interest of the Nation, merely the power ambitions of an individual or a group of leaders." The Modin resolution states that its legislators "will in no way feel compelled by the results of a plebiscite whose constitutional justification has been questioned." The Modin resolution reaffirms "its willingness to implement a serious, deep reform of the Constitution, under opportune political conditions."

During the press conference, at which Rico read the party board statement, the former military man said: "The bill approved by the Senate contradicts the reformist spirit expressed by the president, and reflects the desire to perpetuate himself in power." Rico said that even though his party advocates both abstention and voting no, he will participate in the plebiscite and will vote no. The former leader of the Easter Week and Monte Caseros uprisings said that if the reform is approved as it was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies, Modin "will continue to strive at the Constituent Assembly" for a project "to move toward a clear social model that guarantees the rights of citizens."

Asked about the possibility that Modin may join other political sectors in a possible "Command for the No-vote," Rico said he prefers "to study the issue after the debate at the Chamber of Deputies."

Rico concluded by analyzing the elections held on 3 October. He said: "The people voted for the credit card, for stability, and for their pockets, rather than for a type of country."

Army, Air Force Officers Reportedly Punished, Under Arrest

PY2610025293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2306 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Oct (NA)—According to military sources Army Chief General Martin Balza and Air Force Chief General Juan Paulik today punished two high-ranking Army and Air Force officers for having submitted what were considered "inappropriate" letters to their superiors.

In the Army, Balza punished General Elbio Anaya with house arrest for having submitted a letter in which he discussed the economic situation of retired military officers. According to military sources, the letter was considered "inappropriate" by the Army chief, and he ordered an immediate punishment.

For his part Paulik punished Brigadier Jose Capelini, the officer who in the seventies rebelled against the President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, for reasons similar to those which led to Gen. Anaya's punishment. It was reported that Capelini suffered a similar punishment to that imposed on Anaya—that is, house arrest.

[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 0059 on 26 October transmits a 250-word report datelined Buenos Aires noting that the Army General Staff had described as "completely false" the report that punishment has been imposed on a retired general. The report carries a brief communique "issued tonight" by the Army General Staff stating: "The Army General Staff announces that the press report about a punishment imposed by Lieutenant General Martin Balza, Army chief of staff, on a retired general is completely false." The report adds that the communique, signed by Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Alfonso, does not specify whether any disciplinary measure had been enforced.]

Bolivia

Minister Antelo Says U.S. Embassy Charges 'Very Serious'

PY2610143793 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Interview with Social Communications Minister Hermann Antelo by journalist Eduardo Perez Iribarne from Radio Fides studios—live]

[Excerpts] [Iribarne] Mr. Hermann Antelo, what can you tell us about this U.S. Embassy note? I believe it was delivered to the Foreign Ministry very late last night. I do not know if you have it. We think, however, that you heard the contents through our program. What can you tell us about it and about corruption, in which the government and everybody else is concerned? Good morning, Mr. Minister.

[Antelo] Good morning, Eduardo. I have the English and Spanish versions of the note. The contents called our attention, but we are even more scandalized by the fact that corruption is spreading everywhere.

I believe the government will reply to the note, which will be evaluated this morning. We will send our answer to the embassy. Yet this by no means conceals the fact that corruption has actually spread everywhere.

We believe the charges in the note are very serious. We think that, to make such charges, the embassy should have evidence because it is very general.

We are scandalized at the level of corruption and at the personal allusion by a diplomatic mission, whose note we will answer. This, however, should by no means conceal the central issue, that is, corruption.

[Iribarne] Mr. Minister, we are obviously concerned about corruption. We know that one of the objectives of the president is to wage an all-out fight against it. We will fight in the same trench. We have done it for such a long time that we have become proud of it. I will reiterate, however—and I am not trying to draw your attention away from the central issue—that the claim that Supreme Court head Edgar Oblitas was trying to find allies in light of the crisis affecting him, and that to this end he was willing to subordinate the court to embassy wishes, is, in our opinion, a terrible charge. We should see the evidence they have.

This is a case of interference, both on the part of Dr. Oblitas—if this is confirmed—and on the part of the embassy. Do you not agree, Mr. Minister?

[Antelo] It is obviously a [word indistinct] assertion that is not supported by concrete statements. I believe we must ask the embassy for its records or for further information.

Like you, we believe this information is extremely serious, and we believe the contents of the letter is by no means appropriate for a diplomatic note.

I reiterate, however, that I believe we are in the middle of a fight, that we will do what we must in connection with the embassy, and that we will not ignore the corruption issue, which is a matter about which President Sanchez de Lozada has made promises to the Bolivian people. [passage omitted]

[Iribarne] Mr. Minister, after hearing the contents of the note, many listeners called us filled with indignation. You have already promised us, but I would like you to emphatically reiterate it: Will the government analyze this note and its two paragraphs, which we consider totally inappropriate? Even if the contents are true, we consider it extremely serious that an embassy should release a note like this. Will you analyze it? Will you take action? Can the people rest assured that the government will defend Bolivian pride, prestige, and sovereignty?

[Antelo] Naturally, Eduardo, this will be analyzed this morning, and at noon we might release an official answer. We will do both things, Eduardo. On one hand, we will decide on the note, and on the other, we will reinforce our action against corruption based on these charges. I believe both areas are not exclusionary.

On the other hand, I fear that this type of situation may at times be used to divert people's attention to other issues—which even though we believe to be serious—are not as serious as corruption. [passage omitted]

[Iribarne] Mr. Minister, this is the last question. If you phone the U.S. Embassy, you know that your name will be recorded and that conclusions will be drawn from your call. Perhaps you call to coordinate something, and the embassy later releases a communique stating that you want to put your ministry at the disposal of the United States. Are you taking any measures in this regard?

[Antelo] Look, I don't think we should attach too much importance to it [words indistinct] all phone calls that are received, and one can ask Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] to report the number of phone calls that were made to any phone number. I believe one should not be so sensitive on this matter. The embassy note has only said that phone calls are registered. Like any organized embassy, they keep a record of incoming and outgoing calls.

[Iribarne] Thank you, very much, Mr. Minister.

Oblitas Rejects Charges

PY2610161993 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Interview with Supreme Court President Edgar Oblitas Fernandez by Ricardo Diaz in Oblitas' house in Sucre—recorded "a few minutes ago"]

[Text] [Oblitas] I would like to say it is strange that at a time when the plot against me is collapsing—because of the total failure of the alleged evidence—there should be an attempt to divide Supreme Court justices with sensationalism, with this absurd version that I wanted to put the court at the disposition of the U.S. Embassy, for it to do whatever it wants in this country.

I reject with indignation this U.S. Embassy version that I would do such a thing in exchange for its support. I do not need anyone's support, Father Iribarne, much less from that embassy.

I am a free-lance professional, well known by (?historians), living in a free, sovereign country. This is an inappropriate, rash charge, whose purpose—as I said—is to divide the Supreme Court and to depict me as a mercenary [cipayo].

I do not accept this. Clear evidence of my behavior can be obtained from my attitude, which has unmasked the interference of that embassy in the Bolivian Judicial Branch.

The embassy will say this and many other things, because I am one of the first to confront it.

I am surprised that some of the mass media have given greater credibility to them than to what I said. The embassy has clearly interfered [words indistinct] and no government would allow [passage indistinct] the charges against me and the Bolivian Supreme Court.

He [Nicaraguan citizen Antonio Jose Ibarra] is the main eyewitness in the impeachment trial, and it is important that he stayed in our country.

I ordered the Cochabamba Superior Court and the prosecutor's office to prevent him from leaving the country [words indistinct].

It is curious and surprising that the U.S. Embassy, after recognizing [passage indistinct] should have come with this new string of charges, that are totally groundless and that are invalid by virtue of their nature.

The Supreme Court president is telling the truth.

[Diaz] According to the embassy note, you met in another city with a Mr. (Doubly) and with Justice Siles Salinas, to warn you that the son of [Supreme Court Justice] Ernesto Pope was asking for a bribe in the Ibarra case.

[Oblitas] I will comment about this and other points in the note during the investigation and in statements that I will make at the chamber.

[Diaz] This will undoubtedly be useful to you as your defense in the trial...

[Oblitas] Naturally. It precisely shows, it is a new way of showing that I was being informed that a crime was committed, that there was a bribery attempt, which was later blamed on me. Just imagine the absurdity and contradiction of this type of report that the embassy is releasing.

[Diaz] Do you think Supreme Court members are divided?

[Oblitas] No, [words indistinct] the Court remains united behind me, and I believe it will continue like this, because it is a collective organ that will defend its interests and its dignity.

[Diaz] Dr. Oblitas, have you already designated the lawyers who will defend you?

[Oblitas] I am consulting with a five-lawyer team for my defense, among them Dr. (?Galarza), Dr. Walter Costa, Dr. (Santiago del Rio), Dr. Fernando Valle, and Dr. (Saul Sanjines Jimenez).

[Diaz] What will happen to the various agreements with the United States? We know there is an investment of just over $13 million in these agreements.

[Oblitas] Well, the Court will probably make a decision about that after this situation is clarified.

[Diaz] Is it possible to cancel this agreement with the United State?

[Oblitas] I would rather not speak about that point, on which the plenary session will make a decision.

Brazil

Government to Assume $456 Million of Embraer's Debt

PY2610165893 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Oct 93 Section 2 p 3

[Text] The Federal Government will assume $456 million of the Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] debt to improve the situation of the state-owned company and to facilitate its privatization.

Privatization will be preceded by a $456 million capitalization by the National Treasury. The best way to improve the company's situation is to increase its capital. Shareholders are being urged to agree on a conflict regarding the conversion of debentures issued in 1989 into shares.

Most of the capitalization will be done through debt transfers: the $438 million foreign credit that Embraer owes the Bank of Brazil will be taken over by the Treasury. This will reduce the company's overall debt of nearly $1.1 billion by about 40 percent.

The other $18 million will be capitalized by transferring company assets (machinery and equipment) that currently belong to the Federal Government. This increase in company capital will allow the normalization of debenture conversion operations conducted after December 1991. These conversions were disputed in the courts by foreign banks that are also Embraer shareholders. They argue that the conversion operation infringes the Corporations Law.

Law 6404 does not allow preferential shares (without the right to vote) to represent more than two-thirds (66.66 percent) of the overall capital of the company. With the conversion, however, the debentures holders obtained control of 72.8 percent of the capital, and all of it in preferential shares.

The agreement under discussion with the shareholders envisages that before increasing the company's capital, the conversions made but not approved by the court (all the conversions that took place after December 1991) be temporarily reverted to their original state. That is, a reconversion should take place, thus allowing the composition of capital be the same as that in December 1991.

National Treasury Special Adviser Maria Cristina Carreira, 37, said yesterday that the Aeronautics Ministry requested a loan from the Finame [Fund for Financing Machinery and Equipment] to purchase EMB-312 Super Tucano planes, which are produced by Embraer.

Education Ministry Reportedly Involved in Budget Corruption

PY2710024493 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] Documents obtained by O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO and forwarded by the Federal Police to the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] dealing with the budget reveal that the Education Ministry (MEC) used to pass official information to the Seval Consulting Company, which is accused of having participated in the Deputy Joao Alves scheme. Copies of the communications exchanges in 1991 between the MEC and Seval show that this company used to control the statement of expenses of the National Educational Development Fund (FNDE), an organization that used to operate as a bank, transferring funds of up to $1 billion yearly for the construction and refurbishing of schools.

Editorial Asks Government To 'Cleanse' Itself of Corruption

PY2610212993 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Oct 93 p 2

[Editorial: "A Challenge for Congress"]

[Text] At a time when it is easier to criticize congressmen, whose prestige is now at its lowest level, whoever dares to praise Congress, no matter how slightly, is asking for trouble. However, this week's developments suggest that it is only fair to say that the Legislative Branch has reacted with the necessary speed to the serious crisis unleased by the charges against the Budget Commission by former Senate official Jose Carlos Alves dos Santos.

In the short spell of a week the necessary number of signatures for the creation of a Congressional Investigating Committee [CPI] were gathered, the CPI was established, and the testimony of the two people who seem the most important was heard: of the person who made the charges, and of Deputy Joao Alves (PPR-BA) [Progressive Renewal Party—Bahia], the main culprit in the scandal.

This is quite something, especially taking into account how traumatic it must be to investigate one's own colleagues in a country with such a strong corporative culture as has Brazil. Congress, in addition to reacting promptly to the scandal, also promptly proposed sanctions against those guilty of another crime, in the case of deputies who allegedly accepted bribes to change their party membership to the PSD [Democratic Social Party]. The proposal to strip the three main suspects of their mandates was ready on 21 October.

It would, however, be very naive to believe that these first steps would be enough. What remains to be done so that Brazil might have a version of the "Clean Hands Operation," which is currently under way in Italy, is huge, complex, multifaceted, and unavoidably of long duration.

So far the CPI has still not even gotten near the axis of a network of obscure interests involving the drafting of the Brazilian budget. After all, the budget law is authoritative. Either with good or bad intentions, the deputies and senators may include in the budget draft bill the amendments they deem necessary, but the damage to the public coffers, when irregularities exist, only happens when the funds are disbursed.

The disbursement, however, is not authorized by Congress but by the Executive Branch. But if there are irregularities in the implementation of the budget, as it seems there were, there are people to blame for them both in the Legislative and Executive Branches. To not establish this link would mean to be doing but a third of the task the CPI is engaged in.

It is thus becoming increasingly evident that private enterprises are part of the nefarious plot that is very clearly becoming public. The construction companies especially—many of which were mentioned by the CPI investigating the Collorgate case—are the main suspects. It is necessary to punish the corrupt; to leave them unpunished would be very frustrating to the public, and would only open the doors for the eventual later surfacing of clandestine schemes involving various other people.

Moreover, it is not enough to only find those responsible for irregularities during previous years. It is probably more important still to establish the barriers to prevent this from happening over and over again. It is obvious that it is asking too much to expect Brazil to become the only country to eliminate corruption. However, it would be reasonable to ask for the necessary mechanisms so that barriers might be imposed to at least discourage or minimize cases of corruption.

Let us again refer to the state which—huge in size, but weak in its reactions and capacity to control—needs to be fully reorganized. We must also correct the innumerable vices that currently plague the partisan political system.

The Legislative Branch's dilemma is therefore quite obvious. It must choose between cleansing itself and at the same time cleansing the entire political-electoral system, or perishing because of the deterioration it has experienced throughout the years, and which has now become a paradox. Brazilian democracy would be grateful for the correct choice.

Chile

Interior Minister Krauss Addresses UN Assembly on Narcotics

PY2710024293 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss today described before the UN General Assembly Chile's efforts to combat drug abuse and trafficking. He pointed out that the responsibility in the struggle against narcotics must be borne not only by the producing countries, but also by the countries with the largest levels of abuse.

We now have a report from New York.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] During his speech before the UN General Assembly, Minister Krauss elaborated on the drug problem, both domestically and internationally.

[Krauss] Our country views with concern how the drug problem, far from declining, is becoming worse. Chile cannot ignore this painful reality.

An increased illegal drug trade is also obvious in our country. This involves both a growth in domestic abuse and using our territory as a transit area for drugs, especially cocaine, going to European and North American countries.

[Reporter] Minister Krauss informed the international community of the measures implemented by Chile in its struggle against this scourge, including a bill presented in Congress that describes money laundering as a crime.

The idea of asking the world's great sportsmen to join in the struggle against drugs was also raised during the forum.

[Krauss] In Chile, we will raise before our country's Olympic Committee and the officials of the various sports federations the idea of a joint effort so that the great sports figures, along with youths, may participate in the struggle against this scourge, which harms the dignity and the opportunities for our nations.

[Reporter] During his stay in New York, Enrique Krauss met with various international leaders, with the goal of creating a subregional program including Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile, with UN support. [end recording]

Judge To Investigate Shootout; Carabineros Seize Weapons

PY2610213993 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Report by Mario Aguilera]

[Text] Special Judge Rafael Huerta, who was appointed yesterday by the Supreme Court to delve into the shootout that took place in Las Condes neighborhood on 21 October, arrived at the courthouse some minutes ago. Upon arriving here Judge Huerta told us that the Supreme Court has not yet notified him of his nomination. He nonetheless pointed out that he had great confidence in tackling this difficult investigation.

With regard to something else having to do with this case, Carabineros personnel exhibited this morning at the 17th Police Precinct in Las Tranqueras all the weapons, ammunition, and explosive devices seized during raids that were carried out following the arrest of two extremists in different Santiago districts. Let us now view the report made by Silvia Carrasco this morning.

[Begin recording] [Carrasco] Carabineros personnel have searched six Lautaro Group safe houses over the last five days. During these operations they seized weapons, explosive devices, pamphlets, and logistics instruments. According to police sources five of the six safe houses had been rented by Joanna Tabil O'Hara, who was taken into custody yesterday and is currently being held incommunicado.

The materiel seized was inspected by a military prosecutor, as some of those weapons had been used for other crimes.

[Prosecutor Sergio Cea, in progress] ...of cases that have to do with the robbery of war materiel—you all know about the case of the conscripts who had their weapons stolen some months ago. Here we have the rifles from the Antonio Letti case, from the attack on the surveillance van...

[Carrasco] The prosecutor refers to these two HK rifles stolen from the military at the intersection of Popuro and Antonio Varas Streets last March; to the weapon stolen from a prison warden during the pursuit of inmate Marcos Antonio Letti; and to this Uzi submachine gun, which members of the Lautaro Group stole from Investigative Police personnel during an attack that was perpetrated when the latter were on watch near the home of Mayor Luis Pareto. [end recording]

Let us remember that it was precisely on these charges, namely illegal possession and bearing of arms, that two of the four Lautaro Group members were arraigned. They are currently being held in custody at San Miguel Penitentiary. The other two were also arraigned for other crimes committed during the holdup of the O'Higgins Bank branch located in the Las Condes neighborhood.

The fact that four members of the Lautaro Group have already been indicted by the military prosecutor may give rise to a conflict of jurisdiction, as both Prosecutor Cea and Judge Huerta will be interrogating the same detainees and dealing with the same people. We are here at the Palace of Justice awaiting a possible finding of conflict of jurisdiction. In our evening edition we will report on Judge Huerta's first findings.

Colombia

Defense Minister Calls Military Chiefs' Reshuffle 'Routine'

PA2710024493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Interview with Defense Minister Rafael Pardo by Miriam Ortiz at the Tequendama Hotel in Santa Fe de Bogota on the "24 Hours" newscast—live]

[Text] [Ortiz] We are at the Tequendama Hotel, at the ceremony to present an encyclopedia on the history of the Colombian military forces. Defense Minister Rafael Pardo is attending that ceremony. Mr. Minister, what prompted the reshuffling in the military high command?

[Pardo] These are perfectly normal changes that take place toward the end of the year because some officers reach retirement age. As you know, changes have also been made in some military units. These changes are part of the normal and routine developments in any military career.

[Ortiz] Some people are saying the changes are prompted by your resignation from your post and that you want to run for office. How true are those reports?

[Pardo] I have no idea what you are talking about.

[Ortiz] Some people say you may resign unexpectedly, and that is why you announced the changes.

[Pardo] I have no idea what prompted this information that you are surprising me with.

Representative Lara Denies Link to Cali Cartel

PA2710044293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Interview with Representative Jaime Lara Arjona by Miriam Ortiz at the Congress building in Santa Fe de Bogota; from the "24 Hours" newscast—live]

[Text] [Ortiz] Good evening. We are at the Congress of the Republic with Representative Jaime Lara Arjona. Mr. Representative, certain media claimed you are linked to the Cali cartel. Are these reports true?

[Lara] The truth is that—as far as I know—only one media, not several, claimed that. A newspaper published a commentary on 26 October. I will, through my lawyers, take the appropriate actions, because that newspaper reported that Captain Barreto claimed that I handed a document to Cali cartel leaders. That is untrue.

[Ortiz] What is the truth?

[Lara] That Capt. Barreto—fearing for his safety—called me through a relative, handed me the document, told me that he feared for his life because in that document he involved people who are not responsible based on his own knowledge and on the investigation he had conducted. I gave this some thought and tried to tell top authorities about this but I learned that the police general director was not in the country. Thus, I did not hand over the document to the general director. I have the document. It is a facsimile and not the famous original that Mr. Rodriguez Orejuela mentioned in his letter that the newspaper EL TIEMPO published.

Ecuador

Army Searching for Colombians Near Border

PA2710043193 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Oct 93

[From "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] A high-ranking military chief said today that the Armed Forces are searching for a group of Colombian guerrillas who illegally entered Ecuador last weekend, and will eliminate them.

Army General Edmundo Luna said in a news conference that members of a specialized unit, with helicopter support, are patrolling the border area in order to detect and—if necessary—wipe out these guerrillas. He added that the guerrilla group presumably belongs to the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board, and it reportedly includes 10 to 15 members, two of them women, who entered through an area of the northern border between Ecuador and Colombia that is seldom controlled. After entering Ecuador on Saturday, the group stole weapons and combat uniforms in Maldonado and Chican, located 260 km northwest of Quito, and then returned to the thick jungle of the area.

Paraguay

Wasmosy Plays Down Coup Rumors, Meets Argentina's Menem

PY2610213193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 26 Oct 93 p 4

[Text] Commenting on reports of a possible coup d'etat as expressed by a group of legislators, President Juan Carlos Wasmosy said yesterday: "If they want coups, let them knock their heads against the wall." He made these remarks during a meeting in Buenos Aires with President Carlos Saul Menem, adding that they discussed the possibility of coups, and that they had achieved a tacit agreement on reciprocal assistance to defend their respective democratic processes. Wasmosy, who did not give any details about this agreement, traveled to Argentina on 24 October to visit Menem, who is recovering from surgery.

Asked about how this pact will be implemented, Wasmosy said: "It is not a pact. It is a tacit agreement between two countries." He added that he believes any country that does not uphold a democratic governmental system will cease to be a member of either Mercosur [Common Market of the South] or the Rio Group. Commenting about Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's self-coup, Wasmosy said: "You must remember that Peru had been marginalized from these groups for some time. It was accepted back only recently. Therefore, although there is no written pact, there is a tacit agreement."

Asked about threats against some legislators, the president said he is willing to offer support to all those involved. He reasserted that he had offered support from the Navy, Air Force, or Army to Chamber of Deputies President Francisco Jose de Vargas. He said: "We are willing to give them our wholehearted support."

The president later said that these situations "go with the job. If a person reports he is going to kill, it is because he will not do it. A killer does not warn his victims... This is a risk we take. All of us must have the civic courage to strengthen this democratic process, and if our time has come, well, there will be someone else to take up the torch."

The president also said he was very sad to learn about the murder of Police Deputy Commissioner Lorenzo Caceres by car thieves. In this regard he announced that neighborhood patrol groups have been established in Villa Morra. He said that the idea involves having neighbors become acquainted with their neighbors for their self-protection and in the struggle against crime, corruption, and drug trafficking. Wasmosy said that the police cannot confront outlaws alone. "It is society, civilians, who must cooperate with the government, and protect neighborhoods in a joint manner so that police may be quickly arrive at the scene of the crime. We have

to stop crime. We must do away with crime, not only to attract investments, but for the safety of our own families."

Asked whether neighbors will be allowed to carry guns, he said: "I am not saying they should carry guns, but for neighbors to unite so that they can assist the police."

Agreement To Privatize Hydroelectric Plant

PY2610230493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 26 Oct 93 p 13

[Article by "special correspondent" Luis Fernandez Lagrana]

[Text] Buenos Aires—"We have decided to privatize the Yacyreta hydroelectric plant," President Juan Carlos Wasmosy said, upon returning to our capital from Buenos Aires at approximately 1800. He said that he and Argentine President Carlos Menem had assessed "the pros and cons," and reached the conclusion that the most appropriate plan was to privatize the binational project. He added that Brazil and Argentina are currently increasing their demand for electricity, and that what is desirable is to accelerate the construction of the Yacyreta hydroelectric dam "without waiting for the hydroelectric plant itself to generate the resources needed to conclude the project."

"In this manner, respecting the two countries' rights, the business group or international groups that might acquire it will have to comply with the royalties and compensations demanded by Argentina and Paraguay, and must also provide the necessary funds for resettlements in the two countries," he added.

When asked whether this privatization will affect the entire hydroelectric complex—that is, its construction, maintenance, operation, services, exploitation, etc.—Wasmosy said he did not want to get into details. He added that a bilateral commission will be established with representatives from Paraguay and Argentina to discuss all these details, "to study the best possible way to proceed, and to establish the base conditions for calling an international public bidding to privatize the hydroelectric plant."

Asked again about the same point, he said: "I do not want to say anything in advance. The commission will decide that, because we want to replace the Argentine resources and Parguayan rights with the private sector."

He explained that in his opinion, there are two alternatives regarding resettlements: "That the money be sent to each country, and that each country try to solve its own resettlement problem. The other alternative is that they (the resettled families) assume the binational entity's obligations concerning resettlement."

When asked whether this procedure would not change the construction timetable, Wasmosy said it would not. "Absolutely not. What we want is to accelerate the project. Considering the pace of their current development, both Brazil and Argentina will have an energy crisis, proof of this being that Brazil is already building the gas pipeline with Bolivia," he said.

He also said that he had talked with Menem about the gas pipeline issue, that is, the possibility of selling Argentine gas to Paraguay. He said that there are very good prospects for bringing the gas pipeline to Paraguay, and from here supplying it to southern Brazil. He gave no further details.

Referring to the state of health of the Argentine president, Wasmosy said: "Menem is healthier than we are." He said that the presence of a leader such as Menem is necessary within Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and within the Rio Group. He said that the meeting was very interesting and lasted almost one hour. Wasmosy left on Sunday at noon for the Argentine capital, and the meeting with his Argentine counterpart was held yesterday at 1000 at the Casa Rosada.

In addition to his closest aides, Wasmosy was welcomed at the airport by some Colorado Party precinct leaders and by Enrique Gonzalez Quintana, director of Canas Paraguayas Inc., who arrived at the airport in a luxurious Mercedes Benz belonging to that company, which is a producer of alcoholic beverages.

Wasmosy, Military Agree to Political Affiliation Suspension

PY2610224393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 26 Oct 93 p 9

[Text] Through Circular Note No. 66, the commanders of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Logistics Department, and war materiel of the Paraguayan Armed Forces were obligated to call all generals, senior officers, subordinates, and off duty officers from the capital, Capiata, Ypane, Piribebuy, Itaugua, Villa Hayes, and Paraguari to a meeting with the commander in chief of the Armed Forces yesterday at 1830 in the 4 May Stadium at the 1st Army Corps.

Contingents of military officers began to arrive for the meeting at 1630 in private cars, military buses from the different military branches, and pickup trucks, which began at approximately 1830 with the arrival of the president.

Approximately 1,000 officers from the Armed Forces held a lengthy meeting with President Wasmosy. The meeting was termed historical by mid-level military commanders, who could directly and in a personal manner listen to the president's position on "controversial military matters." They also had a chance to explain their concerns and worries in a sort of "open forum," something unprecedented in military circles.

Although the circular said that the meeting would deal with "service matters," some consulted sources, who

requested that they not be identified for fear of retaliation, reported that Wasmosy made a clear statement on the position of the government and the commander in chief on the temporary suspension of affiliations to any political party by officers on active duty.

He explained that the commanders of the forces unanimously decided, after a thorough study of the advantages and disadvantages of the bill being discussed in Congress, to propose its acceptance, because the term suspension was in keeping with the national Constitution and the laws, "especially because the bill will allow military officers to regain their status of affiliation to the Colorado Party upon retirement."

The possibility of losing their status of affiliation to the Colorado Party, according to our sources, has caused much concern within military echelons, but they said that with the explanation given by the commander in chief and the commander of military forces, Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit, "everyone remained calm."

Concerning the issue of food rations, the commanders of the different units also explained the advantages and disadvantages of providing food rations to the military officers.

Our sources reported that a great majority of those present at the meeting were against the elimination of food rations, and voiced their concern over the damage the suspension of food rations would cause to their respective families, even though they will be compensated with cash. Essentially, they argued that the continuous increases in staple food prices would rapidly absorb the money meant to replace the provisions.

Air Force Commander Visits Taiwan

PY2710005093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Oct 93 p 7

[Text] Paraguayan Air Force (FAP) Commander General Jose Cespedes Zarza has visited the Republic of China, Taiwan, upon the invitation of his Taiwanese counterpart General Tang Fei, to participate in Taiwan's celebrations of the holiday known as the Double 10. Gen. Cespedes traveled in the company of his wife Delia Medina de Cespedes.

During his stay in that country Gen. Cespedes visited the main Air Force bases, the aircraft factory, and the strategic Quemoy Island. He also observed the IDF aircraft, a version similar to the U.S. F-16 plane, which can reach a speed of 1,800 km per hour. In reference to these visits, Gen. Cespedes stressed the technological development of the Taiwan Air Force.

The FAP commander also stressed the prospects for cooperation he found in that Asian country.

Peru

Police Disperse San Marcos University Demonstrators

PA2710034793 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0257 GMT 27 Oct 93

[From the "Direct Line" newscast]

[Text] Violence returned to San Marcos University, where enraged students placed rocks and burned tires on nearby streets. They faced police, who had to use force to disperse them. The San Marcos University students staged their protest this morning along Venezuela and University Avenues. They forced traffic to detour by placing rocks, branches, and advertisement billboards in the street and setting them ablaze.

Further on Students-Police Clash

PA2610211493 Paris AFP in Spanish 2000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Lima, 26 Oct (AFP)—The authorities have reported that scores of students and two policemen were injured on Tuesday in Lima when university students clashed with police during a demonstration to protest the constitutional referendum to be held on Sunday in Peru.

The confrontation lasted nearly two hours near the San Marcos University campus, in the western part of the capital, the police said. After two dynamite explosions and a shower of stones, the police were forced to use tear gas and fire shots in the air, the police report pointed out, adding that it is believed Shining Path activists instigated the protest demonstration. The students, who had their faces covered with handkerchiefs, blocked traffic, threw down posters, and started fires while shouting for a "no" on the referendum called by President Alberto Fujimori to seek approval of the new constitution. Police officers said that over 20 demonstrators were arrested during the demonstration.

Fujimori Interviewed on Human Rights, Shining Path

PA2610200193 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0305 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Interview with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori by Guido Lombardi on the "Panorama" program, at the Panamericana Television studios in Lima—live]

[Excerpts] [Lombardi] Just as we reported, President Alberto Fujimori is in our studios. Good evening, Mr. President.

[Fujimori] Good evening.

[Lombardi] This is a new opportunity to talk to you, which I hope to use advantageously to address a few of the public's concerns. First, I would like to discuss human rights. Have you—someone who has been

involved in so many important issues—been following the investigations of the La Cantuta disappearances and the Cieneguilla common graves? In what stage are those cases?

[Fujimori] The Supreme Council of Military Justice has taken charge of this affair, as everyone knows. I do not have much information on this, but what I do know is that three or four people were officially placed under arrest about three of four weeks ago.

[Lombardi] The people who were arrested, do they belong to the Armed Forces or....

[Fujimori, interrupting] Yes, members of the Army. The case is being investigated.

[Lombardi] Do you believe that the culprits of [words indistinct] will be found and punished? On the topic of human rights, the government, by appointing Father (?Hubert Gansier) as president of the commission to confer with the human rights coordinator, has made an important step and given a clear sign to the public that the government is interested in resolving pending human rights issues. However, even Father (Gansier) himself has said that the number of people who have been unfairly arrested in terrorist cases could be as many as 200. What are they waiting for in order to release those people? We have a special interest—I mentioned this to you the last time we talked—in the cases of Engineer [name indistinct] and (Claudia Vicens), but they are not alone. There are 200 more. Even Father (Gansier) has said this.

[Fujimori] We have to solve flagrant cases as soon as possible, but in terms of the number, I would not talk about such a high number. I have had past experiences that are almost storybook tales. [Words indistinct] Santa Barbara prison in Chorrillo [words indistinct] charged of terrorism. I entrusted the prosecutor general and the president of the Superior Court to speed up the process. I was convinced that [words indistinct] and, well, upon my insistence, two weeks later the prosecutor general called me and said: [Words indistinct] happy girl. She sent me regards and thanked the prosecutor general, too. A few more weeks went by and I had the unpleasant surprise of learning that she was again involved in terrorist activities. So we have to be very careful. If the National Counterterrorism Directorate's [Dincote] specialized team, which has been working efficiently since 1991, has made the arrest, we have to be cautious. I totally agree, however, that we must hasten the process in cases where there are indications of probable innocence.

I believe the appointment of Father (Gansier) is very fitting. He is a person who knows prison problems well. He is a guarantee.

[Lombardi] He is a very humane man. There can be no objection to his appointment.

Regarding Juan Mayea, you announced here and in foreign countries that he is guilty. Juan Mayea is the man who is said to have prepared the famous graphics of [words indistinct]. Graphological tests have shown that he did not make them. Are you willing to reevaluate your opinion regarding [words indistinct]?

[Fujimori] I have sent for a reevaluation. I must tell you, however, that I have my doubts about the results of the latest graphological tests, which were done by the FBI, that conclude he did not participate. I understand that it was not an official FBI test, so I have my doubts. Graphological tests were done from the beginning, and they indicated that he did make those plans. However, this is easily determined by comparing his previous writings....

[Lombardi, interrupting] There was no need to go to somebody in the FBI [words indistinct]. It could have been done by local experts.

[Fujimori] I believe Dincote or any other organization does not have a special interest in accusing him and keeping him in prison [words indistinct]. If he is guilty, he is guilty; and if he is innocent, he has to be released.

[Lombardi] Mr. President, let's move on to a topic that is directly linked to human rights and about which you boast: pacification. After the latest terrorist attacks, don't you feel the strategy of utilizing Abimael Guzman's epistolary ability has failed? Do you continue to believe that Guzman is Shining Path's political leader? Isn't there a Shining Path political leadership in clandestinity?

[Fujimori] No, Guzman is the political leadership. We will continue to comment on this later. There might be an independent reaction by a hardline faction, because in Shining Path there are two factions, what they call right-wing and left-wing factions. The left wing [words indistinct] and there might still be people from the Shining Path left wing. They have tried to express their disagreement and hinder the steps that Abimael Guzman is taking.

[Lombardi] Mr. Carlos Tapia [not further identified] believes these might also be people who accept Guzman's leadership but who have begun to react to give greater possibilities of [word indistinct] to Guzman. Do you think such an interpretation is likely?

[Fujimori] It might be, but in this case those Shining Path members are mistaken because my position, as president of the Republic, has hardened.

[Lombardi] So, the honeymoon is over?

[Fujimori] No, it is not that the honeymoon is over, but we are going to have to demand more concessions from them in the sense that there must be a modicum of calm and a significant reduction in the number of attacks. Nevertheless, Abimael Guzman continues to be the leader. There is no doubt about that.

[Lombardi] Is it true that there was a meeting of the Shining Path Central Committee—of its imprisoned members—with Abimael Guzman [words indistinct]?

[Fujimori] I can tell you this, which also rules out the assertion that Abimael Guzman does not hold the Shining Path political leadership: There was a meeting between Abimael Guzman and Marta Huatay in Guzman's cell. After authorization and the appropriate steps were taken, she was brought from Yanamayo Prison.

[Lombardi] You are confirming a scoop [words indistinct].

[Fujimori] Yes [words indistinct]. She was brought from the Yanamayo Prison and the meeting was held.

[Lombardi] What was the result?

[Fujimori] You must remember that Marta Huatay was one of those recalcitrant Shining Path members.

[Lombardi] From the left in Shining Path?

[Fujimori] Of course, nearly the left of Shining Path. Marta Huatay has accepted Guzman's orders. I am told she calls him President Gonzalo and [words indistinct].

[Lombardi] The third letter will eventually be signed by Abimael, Comrade Miriam, that is, Elena Iparraguirre, and Marta Huatay.

[Fujimori] Not necessarily. Listen, we leave Abimael Guzman free in this regard. I am a defender of freedom of expression and thought, but in this case, let us assume that such a letter is written. There would be a barrier of censorship. If it is advisable for the country's peace, we would make it known. The interesting thing resulting from this meeting is that Abimael Guzman is in command. Imagine Marta Huatay [words indistinct].

[Lombardi] In any case, the call that might be made in the future in this third letter would be more significant, because it would also come from Marta Huatay?

[Fujimori] No, I do not think there should be a third letter. Instead, as I have proposed to Abimael Guzman—and he knows it—I want him to issue a statement [words indistinct].

[Lombardi] [Words indistinct].

[Fujimori] No, perhaps it would be illusory to ask him for such a quick surrender, but at least for him to order his followers to stop the criminal attacks. For example, the surrender of weapons would be the next step so afterwards the state could evaluate the situation and take complementary measures in response to such initiatives by the Shining Path.

[Lombardi] Perhaps it would be worthwhile to admit—and I am asking for your honest opinion—that even if such a call is issued by Guzman, attacks will continue from specific Shining Path sectors.

[Fujimori] Yes, but much less. In any case, the government would not take a step forward if it feels [words indistinct] attacks. [passage omitted]

[Lombardi] Regarding the referendum campaign, some people say you have gone overboard and become too identified with the campaign. Do you think that by going overboard in the campaign you could hurt your cause?

[Fujimori] We have communication techniques that reported on the content of the constitution. It is difficult, and because of the relatively short period of time, we may not have done everything. That is why a high percentage of people are undecided. I do not think there have been any excesses in the campaign. Everybody knows the constitutional reforms are the ones that have been put to work these past months and that are yielding specific results.

[Lombardi] We cannot comment on the polls, because the law forbids reporters to disclose the figures we have. In the latest poll, there is...[pauses] Do you agree with that law banning the disclosure of poll figures 15 days before the elections?

[Fujimori] I think there must be full freedom of information. If there is freedom of the press and the headlines of newspapers and magazines announce a catastrophe for Peru, which never happens, why should we [words indistinct] of that kind? I deeply regret this Congress has not repealed ...

[Lombardi, interrupting] As president, can't you take the initiative on the matter?

[Fujimori] No, I cannot [words indistinct] because that does not fall within the president's purview. I think it is time to [word indistinct] I think there is always some nervousness [words indistinct], but I think everything must be reported.

[Lombardi] At any rate, I would like to comment on a survey on [words indistinct] approval or not of your work as president. You have a 70 percent approval rate in Lima, and nationally it is 65 percent. In Lima, 20 percent disapprove of you, and 24 percent of the people nationwide disapprove of you. There are a couple of areas where the approval rate, although higher than the disapproval rate, is very low. In Puno it is 45 percent, and in Arequipa it is 50 percent. To what do you attribute the low approval rate [words indistinct]?

[Fujimori] I think we have not [words indistinct], and what is happening here is that we may not have divulged all the things we have done for Puno. I am not just talking about pacification, which is a national and very important topic for Puno, [words indistinct] communication with the people. In Puno, my government has been concerned about covering the roads with asphalt [passage indistinct], and so this is a matter of telling the people of Puno [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Army Commander Dismantles Agency for Antisubversive Operations

PY2610113793 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 7 Oct 93 p 60

[Text] Lieutenant General Daniel Garcia, Army commander in chief, has dismantled the Coordinating Agency for Antisubversive Operations (OCOA) and reorganized the activities of the Army intelligence services.

Garcia told BUSQUEDA: "There is no subversion in the country, so there is no need for antisubversive operations. This is why I ordered the dismantling of the OCOA."

This organization fought armed groups that acted in Uruguay during the 1970's.

Gen. Garcia added: "In my opinion, it was a dinosaur. Our recent evolution has ended its raison d'etre and we must permanently update our organizations."

Garcia also ordered the staff of the so-called Department-2—Army Intelligence—to perform advisory tasks and to end its operations. He explained that they must advise him on intelligence matters, while operational tasks will be the exclusive responsibility of the Counter Intelligence Company.

"I have instructed them to stick firmly to the tasks assigned to them. Department-2 will not conduct operations, as before, which created confusion. That department had some operational branches."

"I like things to be conducted in a professional and correct manner. I do not like confusion. I handle things following a principle: Each department should handle the specific tasks assigned to it," Garcia said.

Navy To Replace Army in Conducting State Intelligence

PY2610130093 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 21 Oct 93 p 3

[Text] Military sources have reported that for the first time in the history of the Armed Forces, the drafting and planning of state intelligence—a task always associated with the Army—will be handled by the Navy for two years, as of 1 February 1994.

The law that granted amnesty to military personnel in December 1986 established in Article 10 that the Defense Intelligence Directorate General (DGID) must be headed in rotation by the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force. Each branch will head the organization for two years, but always under the National Defense Ministry.

This rotation, however, has never taken place. During the current administration, the Navy called for compliance with the law.

The sources reported that after being conducted by the Navy for two years, the Air Force will take over until 1998, and then the organization will return to the Army.

The "Amnesty Law" established that the DGID "will seek to organize intelligence at the highest national level by coordinating and planning all the intelligence and counterintelligence activities to be conducted by the various specialized military organizations."

Reliable sources have reported that Lieutenant General Daniel Garcia, Army commander in chief, has already defined a series of moves among the generals to comply, for the first time, with this rule.

Beginning 1 February, General Luis Abraham—the current DGID head—will become Army chief of staff because General Yamandu, current Army chief of staff, will be appointed director of the Military School in the next few hours.

Until that replacement occurs at the DGID, Sequeira's position as chief of staff will be occupied by Colonel Hector Terra.

The DGID made headlines in the last few months when one of its members granted protection to Chilean Eugenio Berrios, who is linked to his country's intelligence services and who is sought by Chilean courts.

Two months ago, it was disclosed that former DGID head General Mario Aguerrondo ordered the placing of a microphone in an organization headed by General Fernan Amado. This caused a serious military crisis which culminated in the replacement of Lieutenant General Juan Rebollo, the former Army commander in chief.

Generals to the United States

Military sources have also reported that, as of next year, the Army will have two Army generals stationed in the United States. General Julio Ruggiero is currently the Uruguayan Embassy military attache before the U.S. Government.

The sources reported that it is almost certain that Ruggiero will be replaced by another Army general and return to Uruguay after 1 February. The Army will also appoint another general to replace Rear Admiral Eladio Moll at the Inter-American Defense Board (JID).

Venezuela

* Army Commander 'Protests' Cut in Fuel Supply

93SM0444B Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 6 Sep 93 p 30

[Article by Elba Romero Lopez]

[Text] Amazonas (Special Envoys)—The commanding general of the Army, General Jorge Isaac Tagliaferro D'Lima, protested Corpoven's decision to discontinue

furnishing the aircraft fuels of the JP1 (kerosene) and types 100 and 130 AV Gas. These are fuels supplied to the FAN [National Armed Forces] to carry out of their surveillance, control, and exercise-of-sovereignty operations in the region bordering on Brazil and Colombia.

The measure adopted by the PETROVEN [Venezuelan Oil Company] subsidiary, claiming that the service is unprofitable, affects Caicara del Orinoco, San Fernando de Apure, and Valle de la Pascua, in the States of Bolivar, Apure, and Guarico, respectively, near Amazonas. They are the only supply points serving this southern Venezuelan state, with access essentially only by air.

Tagliaferro D' Lima told EL DIARIO DE CARACAS that security and national defense are compelling reasons for Corpoven to reconsider this measure, which has more serious aspects at a time when indications point to a new outbreak of illegal activities by the *garimpeiros* [prospectors], who, in search of gold, are resorting to genocide of the natives, fundamentally Yanomami ethnics, who inhabit that extensive, depopulated Amazon region.

This decision by the PETROVEN subsidiary, which significantly affects the presence of the Armed Forces at Venezuela's borders with Brazil and Colombia, was communicated to General Tagliaferro as he arrived in San Francisco de Atabapo on his inspection trip to the Amazonas border guard bases. The Army officers assigned here reported the discontinuance of the supplying of Kerosene (used for their propeller-driven planes) and AV GAS (100-120) used in their jets, which are the means of transport used by the FAN to penetrate the isolated forest spots where the border posts are located.

"There is concern, because of plans to curtail the delivery of fuel to some points that are very important to us from the standpoint of fueling the planes that carry food and supplies to the border posts and to the soldiers who are working on the construction of five more border security posts," said Tagliaferro D' Lima.

The high official termed this decision by the PETROVEN subsidiary exceedingly serious, in that it leaves the Amazonas's sole supply points, located near the mentioned neighboring countries, devoid of aircraft fuel. It has a negative impact on the functions being performed by the Army, Navy, and National Guard at the borders. And the more so, in that, owing to the characteristics of this jungle zone, the principal mode of communication is via air and river, since Amazonas has no road network.

The Army commander emphasized that considerations of security and defense must take precedence over commercial considerations. The future development of the region must also be considered. "To develop this southern region of the country, diligent long-term planning must be undertaken, and for this to materialize, we must continue increasing the number of border points manned by the Army and the National Guard."

The State of Amazonas is an emporium of natural riches that shelters numerous indigenous peoples who are trying to survive against constant harassment by illegal Colombian and Brazilian marauders. Located in this region are the Sipapo Forestry Reserve, the Upper Orinoco Biosphere Reserve, the Java Sarisatinama National Park, and the Urucusiro, Tapirapeco, Curupira, Unturan, Parima, 31 May, and La Neblina sierras.

Besides watching over and safeguarding all of this Venezuelan property, the military detachments in this state, the country's most isolated one, must also guard our national sovereignty against the illegal incursions of Colombians who, said officials of the FAC [Armed Forces of National Cooperation], harass the natives, compelling them to abandon their settlements.

Tagliaferro D' Lima praised the work being done by the FAC in respect to this clandestine immigration, especially from Puerto Inirida and other Colombian points. "When a citizen from another country, who has entered Venezuela illegally, is identified as such, the procedure is well known by now: He is delivered to the authorities of that country.

"That, of course, is part of the work being performed by the Armed Forces in the region, particularly insofar as concerns the mission of the National Guard of Venezuela, which, because of the police nature of its functions, includes the control of migration."